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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
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20 October 2008

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 20 October 2008

HEALTH

NHS Operating Framework

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The NHS Management Board met last week to discuss the Operating Framework and the NHS's priorities for the coming years.

The Management Board noted that as a result of successive generous spending settlements and the excellent financial management across the NHS that has been achieved over the last few years, the NHS is on a firm financial footing for the years ahead.

While the NHS's current financial position is settled for this spending review period, good financial planning means that the board needs to plan on a longer-term basis. This means looking to at least a five-year timeframe rather than just the next two years.

At the same time, a new funding formula and tariff calculations are being introduced. These are complex changes that the board decided needed to be refined further to enable robust financial planning in the NHS.

The NHS Management Board have therefore decided to delay publishing the Operating Framework in order for these changes to be properly worked through and to allow the necessary time to reach a view around the longer-term financial assumptions towards the end of the year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs Council will be held on 24 October 2008 in Luxembourg. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice (Lord Bach), the Scottish Minister for Community Safety (Fergus Ewing) and I will attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed:

The Council will concentrate on interior and justice issues. The morning of the Council will focus on interior items, starting with the Mixed Committee also attended by Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. The presidency will give an update on the state of play of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II). The Council will then be asked to adopt the council decision and regulation published by the Commission on 16 April 2008 establishing the legal framework governing the migration from the Schengen Information System in its current form, SIS 1+, to SIS II. The UK is content to adopt the texts in their current form. The presidency will then request that member states approve the amending SISNET budget for 2008. The UK is content to approve the budget.

The presidency is seeking to agree Council conclusions on proposals to set up national alert platforms and a European platform for reporting offences on the internet. Europol is being invited to conduct an impact assessment with a view to establishing and then hosting the European platform. This platform would receive alerts on offences from the national platforms of the European Union's member states. The UK is broadly supportive since the draft would enable us to rely on existing national platforms to feed the European platform.

The presidency is seeking to agree Council conclusions on the Principle of Convergence, which aims to improve EU police co-operation through a range of measures such as improved police training, better use of technology and equipment and joint investigation teams, where this can be seen to add value. The UK supports the initiative where it focuses on practical measures to enhance police co-operation.

The presidency has issued a paper to guide debate on West African drugs (cocaine) trafficking. Drug trafficking through West Africa causes harm to EU citizens, undermines the impact of regional EU development assistance, and undermines governance in the region. The UK believes that there needs to be an EU co-ordinated response to the threat and this is an excellent opportunity for us to steer that response.

The Council will discuss the Commission proposal on the use of passenger name records (PNR) data for law enforcement purposes, which restrict the processing of PNR data to flights between third countries and EU member states only for the purposes of counter-terrorism and combating organised crime. The UK wishes to see an EU level framework that sets a minimum level of harmonisation for the processing of PNR data, allowing member states to legislate domestically for additional collection and uses of PNR data. The Council will be asked to note progress on these issues and give a mandate for working group discussions to continue.

Ministers will be asked to agree the creation of a European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS). This proposal is designed to create a computerised conviction information exchange system between member states. The UK will support this as the arrangements will allow the system to function smoothly, enable the technical work to progress without unnecessary bureaucracy and ensure that member states maintain a sufficient degree of control.

The presidency will be seeking political agreement on the articles of the proposal for a Council regulation on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and co-operation in maintenance obligations. It is planned that the recitals and standard forms will be agreed at the Council in November. As the UK did not opt in to this proposal we will have no vote. However, following the compromise on applicable law rules which was agreed to enable the UK to participate in the adopted regulation, we hope to be in a position to signify our wish to accept the measure under the terms of article 4 of the UK-Ireland protocol.

The Council will be asked to approve guidelines on the protection of vulnerable adults which encourage those member states that want to accede to the Hague convention of 13 January 2000 on the international protection of vulnerable adults to sign and/or ratify it as soon as possible and, once sufficient experience has been acquired in the operation of this convention, to invite the Commission to consider whether there is a need for additional measures at Community level. The Government support these guidelines. The UK has signed the Hague convention and has ratified it for Scotland. Ratification for the rest of the UK is to follow.

The Council will also be asked to agree a resolution for a set of non-binding guidelines on judicial training. The aim is to promote a better understanding among judges throughout the EU of European law, and the legal systems of other member states. There is a perception that, in some countries, established EU mechanisms of judicial co-operation are not being used in cases where they would assist, simply because the judges concerned are not aware of them. These guidelines recognise that Government are, in many countries, not themselves responsible for judicial training. They do not give rise to any obligations either on the Government or the judiciary.

The next JHA Council will take place on 27 and 28 November in Brussels.

JUSTICE

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): The seventh annual Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) reports are published today. The MAPPA bring together the Police, Probation and Prison Services in each of the 42 areas in England and Wales into what is known as the MAPPA "Responsible Authority". Other agencies are under a duty to co-operate with the responsible authority; including social care, health, housing and education services.

The aim of MAPPA is to protect the public from the risks posed by serious and complex offenders, and they do this in two ways. First, by ensuring the production of risk management plans that benefit from the information, skills and resources provided by the individual agencies being co-ordinated through MAPPA. Secondly, by focusing multi-agency MAPPA management on the cases that need it most.

One of the most notable developments last year was the roll out of ViSOR, the Violent and Sex Offenders Register, to every probation area and every prison in England and Wales. This means that the Police, Prison and Probation Services, working together through MAPPA, have the same key information about offenders, including details of current risk management plans.

It is also clear that the MAPPA agencies are increasingly robust in dealing with non-compliance by these offenders, many of whom pose the highest risk of harm of all offenders under supervision. Offenders managed at MAPPA levels 2 and 3 are increasing likely to be recalled to prison for breaching sexual offences prevention orders, and registered sexual offenders more likely to be charged or cautioned for breaching the notification requirements.

These are the headlines but a great deal of work has gone on in the past 12 months to improve the way we manage dangerous offenders. Immediately after last year's reports were published in October 2007, revised national MAPPA guidance was published. The new guidance incorporated the learning from the previous three years of research, case review and inspection findings and implemented seven of the recommendations of last year's child sex offender review.

These included changes to formalise procedures for disclosing information about dangerous offenders to people outside of MAPPA where this is necessary to improve risk management plans. Section 140 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, which came into force in July, supports these procedural changes by requiring all 42 MAPPA responsible authorities to consider disclosure in all cases involving child sex offenders.

The annual reports describe how the arrangements work locally and include key public protection achievements in each of the 42 police and probation areas of England and Wales. They report on progress against local business plans, outline next year's plans, and provide contact points for further information. They also provide statistical information on the number of offenders eligible for the MAPPA and how they are managed.

Copies of every area report are being made available to the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The Blue Badge (Disabled Parking) Scheme provides a vital lifeline to 2.3 million disabled people in England. The value of the badge, in terms of independence cannot be understated, as 75 per cent. of badge holders say that they would go out less often without a badge.

Having listened to the views of badge holders, the general public and disability groups about how the scheme can be improved, I am today announcing the "Comprehensive Blue Badge (Disabled Parking) Reform Strategy England". This strategy contains a suite of commitments that will be taken forward over the next five years, that are designed to radically reform the scheme in a manner that is right for the 21st century. Copies of the strategy have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available from the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

I want to ensure that the maximum number of people, who have a genuinely severe disability, can benefit from the scheme. That is why the strategy contains a commitment to extend the scheme to people with certain significant temporary mobility problems (lasting at least one year,) individuals with severe mental impairments, seriously disabled veterans and more children, under three, with specific medical conditions.

Assessments will be made fairer and more consistent—local authorities will receive up to £15 million per year to conduct improved independent medical assessments.

We will explore options for improving the badge renewal process, from a customer perspective, for people with permanent and degenerative disabilities.

Nine local authorities have been awarded the status "Centre of Excellence" in administering and enforcing the scheme. They will receive £500,000 to share good practice and drive up improvements in management of the scheme with other local authorities.

We plan to enable local authorities to charge a badge application fee—which has remained unchanged at £2 since 1983—that is more appropriate to their costs.

Badge holders and motorists are particularly concerned about abuse of the scheme, through theft, forgery or borrowing of disabled badges by non-disabled people. I am committed to preventing this, and the strategy outlines a number of anti-abuse measures.

Up to £10 million will be provided to local authorities, over the next three years, so that they can establish a system of data-sharing to reduce fraudulent misuse of badges. The scope for on the spot seizure of badges being used unlawfully by non badge holders, will be examined. Badge security features will also be improved.

A range of communication activity will take place to highlight the blue badge reform strategy. This will include messages about the impact that abuse has on disabled people.

There is a commitment to support the British Retail Consortium in doing more to tackle disabled parking abuse in their members' off-street car parks.

Relevant authorities in London will be asked to gather evidence to determine whether parking restrictions currently placed on badge holders visiting central London should be relaxed.

Once the domestic reforms are complete, greater foreign reciprocity of the badge will be explored.

I am also publishing today a summary of responses to the Department's recent public consultation on the scheme, which will be placed in the House Libraries, and have formally responded to the Transport Select Committee Enquiry on the Blue Badge scheme.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pensions Regulator Powers

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Ms Rosie Winterton): My right hon. Friend Lord McKenzie of Luton has made the following statement:

On 25 April the Government published the consultation document "The Powers of the Pensions Regulator Amendments to the Anti-avoidance Measures in the Pensions Act 2004". The consultation was focused on proposals to amend the regulator's powers to ensure that they remain adequate and appropriate to address new risks resulting from changes in the pensions market.

The Government's main concern was the emergence of new business models, which have highlighted weaknesses in the current legislation and may reduce the security provided by the pension scheme's sponsor employer. This may be detrimental to scheme members' benefits, and have a cost consequence for the Pension Protection Fund (PPF), and those responsible for paying its levy.

The consultation closed on 20 June and I am pleased to announce that I am today placing copies of the Government's response to this consultation, along with an impact assessment, in the Libraries of both Houses.

We have listened carefully to the concerns raised during the consultation and at the Lords Committee debate of the Pensions Bill; in particular that the substantive proposals should be on the face of the Bill, that they should not impact disproportionately on business, and that transactions previously cleared by the regulator should not be unpicked. The Government's policy objective is to support those employers who choose to run defined benefit schemes and to minimise undue costs: it therefore made a commitment to refine its proposed legislation to address these serious considerations.

The Government response sets out our proposals to make proportionate changes to the regulator's powers, without unduly inhibiting legitimate business activity. The Government have today tabled amendments to the Pensions Bill clauses tabled at Lords Committee to give effect to these changes in primary legislation.

The Government have undertaken further work with key stakeholders over the summer to improve the legislation and to ensure its application is appropriately circumscribed. The amendments are intended to strike the right balance between protecting scheme members under pensions legislation and ensuring that legitimate interests of employers and investors are not unduly inhibited. The Government are grateful for the wide range of input it has received.

The amendments we are tabling today provide greater certainty for the pensions industry, corporate organisations and other parties, with important controls and a requirement on the regulator to produce a statutory code of practice to target the use of the new material detriment test for contribution notices. The regulator has today published draft content for this code, which complements the legislation and provides a list of circumstances to further define the expected use of this new test.

The regulator is required to undertake a formal consultation on this code and anticipates that this will begin later in the year, subject to Parliament's approval of the legislation.

The Government's response will be available on the Department's internet site later today (http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2008/), and the pensions regulator draft content for the code of practice will be available on the regulator's internet page (http://www.tpr.gov.uk).

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 21 October 2008

TREASURY

Double Taxation (UK-Netherlands/UK-Isle of Man)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A new Double Taxation Convention and Protocol with the Netherlands was signed on 26 September 2008. A new Tax Information Exchange Agreement with the Isle of Man was signed on 29 September 2008, alongside an arrangement amending the 1955 Double Taxation Arrangement with the Isle of Man.

After signature, the text of each of these instruments was deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The texts will be scheduled to draft Orders in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I will represent the UK at the Environment Council in Luxembourg on 20 and 21 October.

At this Council, the French presidency will hold a policy debate on the preparation for the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 4) to be held in Poznan on 1 to 12 December 2008. Ministers are then due to adopt Council conclusions, which will emphasise our ambitions for Copenhagen and Poznan, covering mitigation action in developed and developing countries, adaptation, technology and funding and investment. The European Commission will also present its communication on deforestation.

There will be a progress report by the presidency on the climate-energy legislative package. Ministers will also discuss the key aspects of the package over lunch.

The presidency will hold a policy debate on genetically modified organisms, and a policy debate for public deliberation on a proposal for a regulation concerning trade in seal products.

Ministers are due to adopt Council conclusions following a policy debate on the sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and sustainable industrial policy (SIP) action plan. The policy debate is likely to focus on next steps for delivering the plan, eco-labelling, lifestyles and behaviour, and carbon content display for products. The conclusions, which were also considered by the Competitiveness Council on 25 September, are due to welcome the SCP-SIP action plan and identify some next steps.

Ministers are also due to adopt the annex to the Euro-Mediterranean declaration on water (the 'Barcelona process').

Under 'any other business', the presidency will update the Council on: the common agriculture policy (CAP) health check; the EU-Africa climate meeting due to be held in Algiers on 20 November 2008; the Reunion Conference on Europe's overseas areas faced with climate change and loss of biodiversity; the proposal for a regulation setting emission performance standards for new passenger cars (C02 from cars); GMES (global monitoring for environment and security) services; and a proposal for a soils directive.

Under 'any other business', the presidency and the European Commission will also present information on proposals for: substances that deplete the ozone layer; industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control); the outcome of the conference on soil and climate change held in Brussels on 12 June this year; and a Commission communication and legislative proposal to prevent marketing in the EU of unlawfully harvested timber and timber products.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): In accordance with section 10 of the Intelligence and Security Act 1994, I have appointed my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Kim Howells) to be the Chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee.

I am grateful to my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett) for her distinguished leadership of the Committee in providing effective and independent parliamentary oversight of the work of the Security and Intelligence Agencies.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund/Social Fund Commissioner (Annual Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Kitty Ussher): The Secretary of State's Annual Report on the Social Fund for 2007/08 (Cm 7483) was published today and has been laid before Parliament.

The report records that total gross expenditure in 2007-08, excluding winter fuel payments, was £944 million. This included over 247,000 non-repayable community care grants and over 2.6 million interest free loans together worth over £771 million, funeral and cold weather payments totalling almost £50 million and more than 243,000 Sure Start maternity grants worth more than £123 million. In addition 8.8 million households benefited from a winter fuel payment at a cost of around £2.1 billion.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 22 October 2008

TREASURY

Support for Vulnerable Homeowners

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper): The Government are committed to doing everything possible to help ensure that the right framework is in place to support vulnerable mortgage borrowers facing repossession.

Repossessions are low by historical standards. And while the numbers have been rising recently, the proportion of people affected remains small. But for the individual, repossession can have major financial, social and emotional consequences.

The Government announced a comprehensive package in September this year, including support for 6,000 of the most vulnerable homeowners facing repossession through a Government mortgage rescue scheme, and also further investment in reforms of support for mortgage interest (SMI).

I am pleased to report today that the Government, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Civil Justice Council (CJC) are taking further steps in two areas to help ensure a fair deal for vulnerable homeowners: the sale and rent back market, and repossession cases in the courts.

The sale and rent back market offers homeowners the option of selling their property at discounted rates in exchange for tenancy arrangements. We have listened to concerns that in some cases vulnerable individuals facing repossession may be selling their houses for much less than they are worth in exchange for limited tenancy arrangements.

In March this year, the Government asked the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to consider options to strengthen consumer protections in the sale and rent back market. The OFT reported last week, and recommended action in several areas, including new regulation to protect borrowers considering entering into these arrangements, action to raise consumer awareness of their potential risks, and new guidance on the interaction between these arrangements and housing benefit eligibility.

I am pleased to confirm that the Government accept the OFT's recommendations in full. The Treasury will consult shortly on bringing these arrangements within the scope of Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulation. The Treasury will take into account the OFT's findings, and engage stakeholders closely in its consultation.

And I am also pleased to confirm that today the Master of the Rolls has approved the Civil Justice Council's protocol for mortgage possession cases, which complements existing regulation, and sets out clear standards that judges may expect of lenders bringing repossessions cases in the courts.

The new protocol makes clear that repossessions should be a last resort. Where possible lenders are expected to try to discuss and agree with borrowers alternatives to repossession. Where a case subsequently comes to court, lenders will be expected to be able to tell the court precisely what they have done to comply with the protocol.

The protocol will take effect for all cases issued from November 19. This means that lenders will have to begin complying with it immediately ensuring that it can bring benefits to borrowers as soon as possible.

Copies of the Government's response to the OFT's market study have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and the Civil Justice Council's protocol for mortgage possession cases will be deposited and available shortly.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Safeguarding

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Keeping children and young people safe is a top priority for this Government. We will do all we can to make the safeguarding system as robust as possible.

One of the commitments informing the Government's "Staying Safe: Action Plan" published earlier this year was to carry out a stocktake of local safeguarding children boards which play a vital statutory role in safeguarding children and young people. This is part of our continuing programme of work to support these boards and identify further ways of improving their effectiveness. I am today announcing the terms of reference for this stocktake that will be conducted in close collaboration with local authority and other partners and will report in spring 2009.

Alongside this stocktake, we will also carry out a study to examine the processes of commissioning, conducting and implementing serious case reviews. The overarching objective of this study is to establish what more can be done to improve the quality, consistency and impact of serious case reviews as part of the overall system for safeguarding children and young people. In particular, the study will seek to identify ways in which the learning from these reviews can be acted upon more effectively to strengthen local arrangements to protect children and inform national policy. This study will report in summer 2009.

I have also asked Sir Roger Singleton, chair of the Independent Safeguarding Authority, to lead a review of safeguarding arrangements in independent schools, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools. The current arrangements for independent schools have been in place for several years and we believe a review now would be helpful to establish whether any further improvements are needed. The review will examine the practical operation of the current statutory and non-statutory safeguarding arrangements that apply to independent schools, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools in the maintained, non-maintained and independent sectors in England. Sir Roger expects to conclude his work in February 2009.

I am placing in the House Library copies of the terms of reference for the Local Safeguarding Children Boards stocktake, the serious case review study and the review of safeguarding arrangements in independent schools, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools. The reports resulting from these pieces of work will be made public and I shall report to Parliament in due course on any recommendations arising and our response to them.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

The Tote

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): In my ministerial written statement on 21 July I said that, while the Government remained of the view that they should remove themselves from detailed involvement in the affairs of the racing and bookmaking industries, the Government would need to be satisfied that it was right to proceed with a sale of the Tote in the light of prevailing market conditions.

After further work over the summer, I have now concluded that it is not appropriate to pursue a sale in these market conditions. I have therefore decided that the Tote should be retained in public ownership for the medium-term, and brought to the market when conditions are likely to deliver value for the taxpayer and racing.

Finally, the Government would like to place on record again their warm appreciation of the loyalty and dedication of the Tote's staff while its future has been under consideration.

JUSTICE

Probation Trusts

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I am pleased to be able to provide further information about the implementation of probation trusts following the successful establishment of the first wave of probation trusts from April 2008. These have provided much valuable insight and learning that I am sure will continue into the future and continue to inform the development of further trusts.

The Government are committed to the delivery of high quality probation services that meet local need. However, the challenges facing the public sector have evolved. It is vital that providers of probation services are able to demonstrate that they are as effective and efficient as possible.

My intention is for all suitable areas to have completed the transition process to trust status by April 2010, as originally set out to Parliament. If services wish to secure trust status and are assessed as suitable, I am content to see further trusts established in April 2009. Areas will be required to apply for trust status and to demonstrate that they can deliver effective and locally tailored offender management services within budget. I also anticipate bringing forward additional freedoms to allow trusts, once established, to exercise a range of additional responsibilities.

Voluntary mergers, initiated locally, will be supported by NOMS and agreed by Ministers where they are more likely to meet these goals.

The probation service is going through a significant period of change and one which I anticipate will bring significant benefits. The leadership shown by our committed and professional probation staff at all levels will be critical in making the changes a real success.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 23 October 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Global Entrepreneurship Week

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Ian Pearson): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Competitiveness and Small Business has made the following ministerial statement.

This year is the first ever Global Entrepreneurship Week, an initiative inspired by DBERR and co-founded with the Kauffman Foundation in the USA. Between 17 and 23 November, people in more that 70 countries will participate in a variety of events: collaborating online, sharing ideas and developing entrepreneurial solutions to shared problems.

Global Entrepreneurship Week will enable potential entrepreneurs to network globally. It will engage people in school, at home, on the web and at work. Through this initiative, the next wave of entrepreneurs will be inspired and emerge. In doing so, they will begin to acquire the knowledge, skills, networks and values needed to grow innovative, sustainable enterprises that have a positive impact on their lives and the lives of those around them.

Global Entrepreneurship Week is being run for the Government by the "Make Your Mark" campaign—which aims to inspire young people, aged 14 to 30 years, as well as older entrepreneurs, ethnic minorities and women to be enterprising in the broadest sense, developing a creative, can-do attitude with the skills to spot opportunities and the confidence to pursue them. This agenda is crucial to the future aspirations of millions of people as well as the economic future of the UK—encouraging business start-ups, social enterprises and the development of an enterprising workforce. Wednesday 19 November and Thursday 20 November will be Women's Enterprise Day and Social Enterprise Day respectively.

"Make Your Mark" is funded by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and is led by Enterprise Insight—a campaign coalition founded by the UK's leading business organisations, the CBI, British Chambers of Commerce, Institute of Directors, and the Federation of Small Businesses, in partnership with the main enterprise development organisations and working closely with Government Departments, education bodies, regional development agencies and others.

Global Entrepreneurship Week will form part of the UK's fifth Enterprise Week. Last year, Enterprise Week was an enormous success and generated community interest in entrepreneurship; 584,000 people attended the 5,270 events run by 3,002 organisations. The single largest activity was the "Make Your Mark" challenge. This involved 38,000 students from schools, colleges and universities working in over 7,000 teams, a 94 per cent. increase on 2006. One in six secondary schools took part. There were significant increases in the number of events specifically aimed at women/girls and ethnic minorities—respectively these were 275 and 385 events, representing 108 per cent. and 274 per cent. increases on 2006, and there was more than double the number of social enterprise events, 354, a 55 per cent. increase on 2006.

Solutions for Business

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Ian Pearson): Effective business support can help individuals realise their entrepreneurial potential, help businesses start and succeed, and help communities prosper and flourish—whether the economic climate is stable or uncertain.

Most support is provided by the private sector, but where there is market failure it is appropriate for the Government to intervene.

Today I am setting out how the Government are simplifying publicly funded support to make it more effective, easier to access and value for money. Businesses have said they want a simpler system focused on their needs and this is essential in the current circumstances.

A single "Solutions for Business Funded by Government" package of measures includes:

> Business Link as the main access route, offering impartial assessment and referral to bespoke packages of suitable support.
>
> A single portfolio of 30 targeted support products and services shared across Government for consistency—nationally, regionally and locally. This includes new and existing products, bringing together the best of Government help. By March 2009 all will be in place, all underpinned by a robust economic rationale.
>
> A uniform look and feel to all "Solutions for Business" products, ensuring recognition and a sign of quality

These measures will make it easier for companies—small and large, new or existing, starting or growing—to find the right products to help them with common business issues such as start-up, finance, export, skills, environment, innovation and growth.

The "Solutions for Business" package offers a long term, sustainable remedy to publicly funded support and sets out the Government offer to business. The products will be tightly managed, monitored and evaluated to ensure they continue to meet business needs and are effective. And, the portfolio will be kept flexible and responsive to business need with new products added, or taken away, accordingly.

We envisage that as a result of these measures business will benefit by up to £1.4 billion per year as products work harder for them alongside £1.5 million per year in saved search costs.

To support this announcement the Government are publishing:

> "Solutions for Business: Supporting Success", which explains the new approach and the range of business support products and services that become available between October 8 and March 2009.

"The Economic Drivers of Government Funded Business Support" which sets out the business case for each of the products and how business support can contribute to improving the UK productivity.

Copies of the documents will be placed in the Libraries of the House and will be available on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website at:

www.berr.gov.uk.

These measures take forward the commitment made by the Government in Budget 2006 to simplify the current publicly funded support framework by 2010 to give business customers a better service. Better business support underpins our strategies to make the UK the world's most enterprising economy and will reinforce the wider steps the Government are taking to help business at the present time. It will also help Government achieve social and environmental goals; widening inclusion and helping companies go green.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Education and Skills Bill

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): Today the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families will table amendments to the Education and Skills Bill in advance of its Report stage in the other place. The amendments relate to national curriculum testing at key stage 3.

On 14 October, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced that from the summer of 2009, children would not be required to take key stage 3 national curriculum tests.

In light of this, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State is tabling these amendments now in order to remove the obligation on schools and local authorities to administer key stage 3 tests from 2009 onwards.

The effect of section 88 of the Education Act 2002 requires the national curriculum, including assessment arrangements, to be in place at the start of the school year in order for it to be implemented that year.

The amendments provide an exemption for assessment arrangements from the general requirement that schools implement the national curriculum as it stands at the start of the school year.

Baroness Morgan of Drefelin will write to interested peers to outline in more detail our reasons for no longer requiring children to take national curriculum tests at key stage 3. A copy of this letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): The importance of good quality Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education—PSHE—has never been greater. PSHE has a major contribution to make to young people's personal development and well-being—a key indicator of the success of a 21st century school.

The issues it covers are central to young people's well-being:

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
Emotional health and wellbeing
Sex and relationships education
Nutrition and physical activity
Personal finance
Safety
Careers education
Work related learning.

There has been progress in PSHE over the years as a result of: the National Healthy Schools Programme which requires schools to meet criteria for PSHE; the national PSHE CPD programme which has trained over 8,000 teachers; QCA units of work and assessment guidance; departmental guidance on SRE, drugs, safety and financial capability; work with ITT providers; research on why PSHE thrives; and the recent £11.5 million boost for financial capability support programmes for schools. Through their subject reports, Ofsted describe an improving picture. In 2005-06, primary school pupils' achievement in PSHE was good in about four out of five schools. At KS3 and 4 achievement was good or better in over half of lessons.

However, we know that concerns about the quality of teaching and learning in PSHE persist, particularly around sex and relationships education. Teachers can be required to teach PSHE without any training. We must improve the skills and confidence of the teaching workforce. Young people are telling us provision is not meeting their needs, particularly in relation to the relationships aspect of SRE and drug and alcohol issues. Such evidence was most recently highlighted in the UK Youth Parliament report and in subsequent research commissioned with young people to inform the SRE review.

The SRE and drugs/alcohol reviews published today also provide evidence, including from young people themselves, that the quality of what is on offer varies significantly and is not meeting young people's needs. We are grateful to all those who have worked on these reviews.

The reviews have made a number of recommendations. These include strengthening the reach and impact of the current PSHE CPD programme; developing an ITT route for training PSHE specialist teachers; updating the Department's guidance to schools on SRE and drugs education; and including a measure of the quality of PSHE in the indicators that Ofsted will use to assess the contribution that schools are making to their pupils' well-being.

In our overall forward work on PSHE we will be governed by the following principles:

all children and young people should receive a common core of information and practical skills, consolidating the current non-statutory programmes of study, to help them grow and develop as individuals, as members of families and society so that they can live safe, healthy, productive and responsible lives;

parents should be fully involved with schools on PSHE learning, and it should be taught in a way that reflects a school's ethics and moral values;

there should be a national framework setting out this common core entitlement;

the quality of teaching and learning needs to improve, better to meet the needs of young people;

PSHE should be planned and delivered by trained, competent and confident teachers with support from expertise beyond the school;

effective provision should lead to improved outcomes for children in terms of knowledge, skills, understanding and behaviour.

The reviews have also recommended that PSHE as a whole should become a statutory subject in both the primary and secondary phases. This is already the case for some elements:

secondary schools must provide sex education (which is defined in law as including HIV/AIDS and other STIs);

all schools must have a sex education policy, though this does not need to include relationships;

all schools must have regard to guidance on teaching about marriage and inappropriate teaching materials;

all schools must teach pupils about the effects of drugs (including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and medicines) within the national science curriculum;

all schools must have a drug policy which outlines the school's response to all drug matters;

careers education must be provided at key stages 3 and 4;

work-related learning must be provided at key stage 4.

Under existing legislation parents have the right to withdraw their children from sex education, except insofar as the sex education forms part of a national curriculum programme of study—for example, the biological elements of science.

However, all other aspects of PSHE are non-statutory.

There are strong arguments for making the whole of PSHE a statutory subject. This would underline the key role PSHE has to play in young people's personal development. It is consistent with the emphasis in the children's plan on schools developing young people in the round, as well as ensuring that they receive an excellent education, and with the priority we expect schools to give the issues that it covers. We have decided therefore that PSHE should have statutory status. In making this decision we want to work with schools and stakeholders to ensure that young people's experience at school addresses their needs and supports them as they develop.

We also recognise three areas of concern:

first, that making PSHE statutory would increase the pressure on the curriculum. It will be essential to ensure that schools have flexibility to tailor a curriculum to suit their pupils;

second, there are concerns that a statutory programme of study for PSHE would cut across the existing rights of school governing bodies to determine their own approach in sensitive areas such as SRE;

third, we need to take into account the position of the very small minority of parents who already withdraw their children or those who might want to in the future.

These are complicated issues that need to be worked through thoroughly. I have therefore asked Sir Alasdair Macdonald to engage with stakeholders and report on how our intention to make PSHE statutory, and the legitimate concerns of schools and parents, can be translated into a practicable way forward. I have asked Sir Alasdair to report to me in April 2009.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Dutch DNA Profiles: Police Investigation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary undertook that Ministers, would report to Parliament once the police investigation, following liaison with the Dutch authorities over data from a disc containing Dutch DNA crime scene profiles were complete. I am today able to fulfil that commitment.

As previously reported, this followed an initiative to exchange data between the UK and the Netherlands. The Dutch authorities shared a disk containing 2,159 DNA profiles from crime scenes in the Netherlands, which were searched against the UK national DNA database. It is important to note two operational implications of searching these data. First, it cannot be assumed that the DNA from the Dutch crime scenes opens up a significant line of inquiry and identifies offenders, as there may be an innocent reason for some DNA, for example on a discarded cigarette end, being found at the scene. As with CPS policy here, we understand that the Dutch authorities will not take executive action on the basis of a DNA result alone and need to consider carefully the significance of a DNA match in each case. Secondly, many of the crime scene DNA profiles contained incomplete or partial information. These profiles have required additional scientific analysis by the UK and Dutch authorities to confirm whether or not there was indeed a match between a person sampled in the UK and a DNA profile from the Netherlands.

Once the Dutch disc was passed to the National Policing Improvement Agency in January 2008 action was taken quickly to address public concerns. The custodian of the national DNA database immediately began batching and comparing the Dutch crime scene profiles against the UK DNA database, with details of the complete DNA matches passed to the Dutch in March 2008. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) set up a gold group chaired by Gary Pugh, chair of the National DNA Database Strategy Board. This group comprised police and prosecuting interests and the Home Office and was set up to steer and direct operations, deal with any requests for further co-operation from the Dutch and to deal with any public protection issues triggered by intelligence about links with unsolved crimes in the Netherlands. The key objective was to identify individuals on the UK DNA database whose DNA matched samples recovered from crimes scenes in the Netherlands so that any dangerous offenders would be identified and the risks posed by them effectively managed. The individuals have been located and a detailed risk assessment carried out. Mr. Pugh has reported that the work of the group has now been completed and that the gold group is being stood down.

Of the 2,159 DNA profiles received from crimes scenes in the Netherlands, 22 full matches were established against individuals on the UK DNA database. Ten of the individuals identified have committed offences in the UK since January 2007 and represent a total of 13 convictions. The individuals were convicted of a range of offences, the most serious being one case of aggravated burglary. Cases are pending against four individuals in respect of six other alleged offences with the most serious being attempted robbery.

The UK authorities have been in close liaison with the Dutch authorities since February this year, providing information to progress inquiries in the Netherlands. All relevant additional DNA work and inquiries in the UK have been completed. We have not yet received any requests for action under a European arrest warrant but stand ready to assist as quickly as possible.

This exercise has shown the value of this sort of information exchange in taking forward criminal investigations across borders. I am grateful for the joint working undertaken by the police and prosecuting authorities both here and in the Netherlands. For the future, the UK has agreed the European Council decision on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime (known as the Prüm Council decision) which will provide a mechanism for member states' law enforcement authorities to search quickly across the EU for matches against DNA and fingerprint data, where a successful "hit" could be followed with a request for detailed information. It will also provide such authorities with direct access to vehicle registration data. All member states must implement this measure within the next three years. It should enable a much quicker and more efficient sharing of data in order to prevent, detect and investigate serious and terrorist-related crime while maintaining appropriate data protection safeguards.

TRANSPORT

Publication of Rail Accident Investigation Branch Investigation

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I would like to inform the House that the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) has today published its final report on the rail accident that occurred near Grayrigg in Cumbria on 23 February 2007. A copy of the report is available in the House Libraries. Copies of the report are also available on the RAIB website at: www.raib.gov.uk.

In summary, the report concludes that the immediate cause of the derailment was the deterioration of Lambrigg 2B points through a combination of failures of the three stretcher bars, the lock stretcher bar, and their fastenings. The unsafe condition arose as a result of a combination of three factors, which were the mechanical failure of a bolted joint, the incorrect set up of the points and a track inspection that was missed on 18 February 2007. It makes a number of important recommendations to the rail industry aimed at ensuring that the lessons are learned from this accident.

I know that right hon. and hon. Members, and the travelling public, will want to be assured that the rail network is safe. The RAIB have already issued urgent safety advice to the rail industry—in June and November 2007—as their investigation progressed. The independent rail safety regulator, the Office of Rail Regulation, has assured me that no further immediate actions to ensure the safety of passengers and staff using Network Rail's infrastructure are necessary as a result of the report, beyond those that have already been taken.

All RAIB investigations include a review of previous similar occurrences and the action taken in response to any related recommendations. In this context the RAIB reviewed the investigation into the accident at Potters Bar on May 2002.

I will consider the detail of the report carefully and take a decision on the most appropriate way forward, both with regard to the accident at Grayrigg and the derailment at Potters Bar, the inquest for which was adjourned in February 2007 pending the outcome of the investigations into Grayrigg. I will also write to the affected parties shortly to seek their views and anticipate announcing my decision to the House early in the new year.

I appreciate that this will mean a short further delay for the relatives of the bereaved, and I regret this. However, I consider it essential to ensure that the way forward is one that will deliver closure to those who were affected, as soon as possible. I am sure that the House will agree that it is important that full consideration is given to the RAIB report, and that the right decisions are made on how to proceed.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Kitty Ussher): I am pleased to announce that, following advice from the Meteorological Office, the annual review of the Cold Weather Payments scheme has now been completed. Amending regulations were laid on 6 October and will come into force on 27 October, in part, and on 1 November—remaining part— in time for the beginning of the winter period.

Two of the weather stations used to provide data for the scheme last winter, Great Malvern and Fylingdales, are being removed from the scheme and two alternative weather stations, Hereford-Credenhill and Leconfield, are being introduced. Great Malvern, a manned station, is closing as part of a network rationalisation that will place more reliance on automatic weather stations. The Fylingdales station is due to be automated. There is uncertainty over the supply of temperature data during the transition from manual to automatic observations. The alternative weather stations have been chosen to provide a neutral or indeed a more accurate assessment for those eligible.

I have written to each of the hon. Members affected by these changes.

The amending regulations also provide for an increase in the rate of a Cold Weather Payment from £8.50 to £25 for winter of 2008-09 as announced on 11 September.

In order to maintain the policy intention of making Cold Weather Payments to vulnerable groups, people in receipt of income-related employment and support allowance in the main phase have been added to the list of eligible customers, as have those in the assessment phase who have a pensioner or disability premium, or have a child who is disabled or under the age of five.

Cold Weather Payments are separate from, and in addition to, winter fuel payments which are paid to eligible people from age 60.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 27 October 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Support for Business

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Ian Pearson): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has made the following ministerial statement:

> Effective credit is key to helping small businesses survive during the current financial climate. The Government are on the side of small and medium-sized businesses and understand that they are facing tough times. We want to help businesses to plan for the difficult times ahead.
>
> On Thursday, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and my noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise met with the main banks responsible for lending to small and medium-sized businesses. I am pleased to announce to the House that they have agreed the establishment of a new forum where banks and small business organisations will meet regularly to discuss and resolve their concerns. My noble Friend the Secretary of State will chair this forum, but the agreements reached will be owned and taken forward by banks and small businesses.
>
> Both my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and my noble Friend the Secretary of State understand the concerns of small businesses. They are committed to ensuring that both new and existing small businesses have access to the finance that they need to help them survive during the financial downturn. Communication between banks and small businesses can promote a shared understanding and enhance business confidence.
>
> This agreement demonstrates the Government's continuing commitment to maintain and raise awareness of the availability of finance for small and medium-sized businesses through the small firms loan guarantee scheme and the European Investment Bank.
>
> Further details on the forum will be available on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website at: www.berr.gov.uk.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): My hon. Friend the Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs and I will represent the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg. Richard Lochhead will also attend.

There will be the usual approval of the list of 'A' points, followed by fisheries items. The Council is due to agree proposals and discuss the following:

> Fixing the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for fish stocks in the Baltic sea for 2009;
>
> Fixing for 2009 and 2010 the fishing opportunities for community fishing vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks;
>
> Fixing the fishing opportunities and the conditions for certain fish stocks applicable in the Black sea for 2009;
>
> Bilateral fisheries agreement with Norway;
>
> Establishing the community position in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

On agriculture there will be discussions on the school fruit scheme, CAP health check, and the placing on the market of timber and timber products.

The following issues will be raised under any other business:

> Crisis in the potato processing market in certain new MS;
>
> Conclusions from the 23rd conference of EU paying agencies;
>
> Information from the Commission on a green paper on agricultural product quality;
>
> How to use unspent CAP funds.

TRANSPORT

Driving Standards Agency Fees 2009

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I have today published a consultation paper seeking views on fees and charges proposed for Driving Standards Agency services in 2009.

The fees and charges are grouped into three areas:

> Fees for learner drivers.
>
> Fees relating to the approved driving instructor scheme.
>
> Charges relating to non-statutory services.

Copies of the consultation paper and initial impact assessments have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The documents are also available from the DSA website at: www.dsa.gov.uk or by telephone on 0115 936 6099.

Those wishing to comment on the proposals have until 18 January 2009 to do so.

WALES

Delivering Digital Inclusion: An Action Plan for Consultation

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): As Minister with responsibility for digital inclusion, on Friday 24 October, I published "Delivering Digital Inclusion: An Action Plan for Consultation", with proposals for achieving greater digital inclusion.

Inequality in the use and application of digital technologies is a new driver of social exclusion in the 21st century and carries an immediate and urgent risk of accelerating existing social divides and creating new ones.

> The opportunities provided by digital technologies are not enjoyed by all—for example, 17 million people in the UK still do not use computers and the Internet and there is a strong correlation between digital and social exclusion.
>
> There are also significant opportunities to use technology better indirectly to support better service delivery through, for example, the equipping of frontline staff or better service planning.

With the Cabinet Committee for Digital Inclusion, and a cross-Government Digital Inclusion Team in place, we now have effective governance to drive forward further action. Government are currently taking forward over 70 actions across the public sector, detailed in the annex to this document, and outside of Government much excellent work to tackle digital inclusion is taking place, but we now need to extend its reach and impact.

We are consulting on both the analysis we have set out in this document and the proposed actions. Of particular note is the introduction of a Charter for Digital Inclusion and an expert taskforce which would inform the work of a new Digital Inclusion Champion, who will take on the role of championing the digital inclusion needs of the most disadvantaged citizens and communities.

The role and responsibilities of the Champion, and the objectives of the Digital Inclusion Charter, will form part of the consultation so that the views of stakeholders can be taken into account.

We invite all those with an interest in digital inclusion to take part in this consultation, and to play a role in influencing the future direction of change.

The consultation, which closes on 19 January 2009, can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/consultations.

A copy of "Delivering Digital Inclusion: An Action Plan for Consultation" and the annex to the plan, have been deposited in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment and Support Allowance

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): As hon. Members are aware, the Welfare Reform Act 2007 and the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 contain provision for a key element of the Government's Welfare Reform proposals including the introduction of employment and support allowance.

I am pleased to confirm that employment and support allowance has successfully gone live this morning. This means that any new customer wishing to make a claim on the grounds of ill health or disability is able to contact Jobcentre Plus to make a claim for ESA and that the new business and IT systems are in place to support this.

Today is the start of customers' journey on ESA which includes a clear framework of rights and responsibilities delivered using an enhanced regime of work-focused interviews, with a firmer conditionality regime.

To support ESA we have introduced an end-to-end ESA customer service supported by an initial business operating model and supporting IT. All ESA claims will be taken in one of the six contact centres that will handle ESA customers' claims. The full integrated IT system will be tested through the trailblazer in Tees Valley, in its benefit delivery centre and associated jobcentres. The rest of the benefit delivery centre and jobcentre network will operate an interim process to provide an opportunity for DWP to learn from initial deployment to ensure a fully optimised system rolls out nationally.

Guidance (Social Fund Guide)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Kitty Ussher): The Secretary of State will be making changes to the discretionary social fund, with effect from 27 October 2008, because of the introduction of employment and support allowance. Income-related employment and support allowance is added to the qualifying benefits for community care grants and budgeting loans. People in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and pension credit are already eligible.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 28 October 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): In February this year, during the parliamentary debates on the Structural Change Orders for Cornwall, County Durham, Northumberland, Shropshire and Wiltshire, a number of hon. Members raised concerns about the deferral of parish council elections in these areas until 2013.

In the light of the strong views expressed the Government undertook to consult with the implementation executives in the areas concerned, seeking their views and those of others in local government with an interest as to whether it would be more appropriate to hold all parish council elections in 2009.

From the responses received, it is clear that there is very little support for holding parish council elections in 2009 in the affected areas. Given the range of evidence and views expressed, the Government will not be amending the arrangements for parish council elections in the relevant orders. As a result, with the few exceptions provided for in those orders, future parish council elections in Cornwall, County Durham, Northumberland, Shropshire and Wiltshire will be held in 2013.

DEFENCE

ASACS Basing Study

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am able to inform the House today of the outcome of the Royal Air Force study that has been undertaken to consider the future basing requirements of the Air Surveillance and Control System—ASACS—units.

On 10 January 2008, I announced that RAF Boulmer would be retained as the core site for the ASACS Hub but that we needed to do more analysis to determine the optimum basing solution for the remaining ASACS satellite units.

This work has now concluded, and has confirmed that the relocation of the ASACS satellite units to RAF Coningsby is the best option in operational and financial terms. Therefore, I have decided that, subject to TU consultation, the control and reporting centre—CRC—at RAF Scampton and No.1 air control centre—No.1 ACC—at RAF Kirton-in-Lindsey will collocate at RAF Coningsby. The relocation is due to complete by the end of 2014.

Following the relocation, it is our intention to draw down RAF Scampton to only those facilities deemed necessary to support the RAF Aerobatic Team's activities within the reserved airspace above the airfield. RAF Kirton-in-Lindsey will be closed once the No.1 ACC has relocated to RAF Coningsby. Service and civilian personnel at RAF Scampton and Kirton-in-Lindsey will be briefed on the progress of the study.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Exclusions Review

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): My right hon. Friend Prime Minister made a commitment in the National Security Strategy statement of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 929, to take "stronger action against those we suspect of stirring up tensions". In the light of that, I have reviewed existing policy on the exclusion from the UK of those individuals who encourage violence or hatred in support of their ideology. We will:

> Create a presumption in favour of exclusion in respect of all those who have engaged in the types of behaviour set out in the Home Secretary's statement of 24 August 2005;
>
> Provide that where an individual claims to have repudiated their previous extremist views or actions the burden of proof is on them to demonstrate this is so and that this has been publicly communicated;
>
> Introduce changes that will allow me to exclude from the UK nationals of the European economic area, and their families, before they travel to this country where they constitute a threat to public security or policy;
>
> Work with other agencies and community groups to improve the evidence base underpinning our exclusion decisions to ensure that we identify those who pose the greatest threat to our society;
>
> Consider in all future cases whether it would be in the public interest to disclose that an individual has been excluded with a presumption to inform the public;
>
> Make greater use of UK watch lists to ensure that individuals who might fall to be excluded, should they seek to come to the UK, are identified and any future visa application is considered with full regard to previous extremist activities.

Over the summer my officials have been working to implement these measures, in consultation with key partners across government and representatives of community groups. Most of these measures have been implemented today and amendments will be brought forward shortly to the Immigration (European Economic Areas) Regulations 2006 to ensure that I personally may exclude EEA nationals and their family members.

I am clear that these proposals should be implemented in a way that has the greatest impact on those who seek to enter the UK to stir up hatred within our society. It is therefore right that we have an ongoing engagement with interested parties in order to strike the appropriate balance and ensure we protect public safety and vital national interests here and abroad. Therefore my officials will continue to engage with community representatives to seek their views on the way this policy is operating.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 29 October 2008

DEFENCE

National Recognition Study Report - Government Response

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I wish to announce the publication today of the Government response to the independent inquiry into the national recognition of the armed forces carried out by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies). My hon. Friend was invited by the Government last December to examine ways of improving the nation's understanding and appreciation of the armed forces and his report was published on 19 May.

As I said when it was published, the Government warmly welcome this report which is comprehensive in its coverage and based on extensive consultation.

The Government are acutely aware of the debt owed to our armed forces. Our gratitude for the work they do in the service of our country is reflected in a raft of recent initiatives with the service personnel Command Paper the central plank. This unprecedented piece of work set out to achieve two things. First, to end any disadvantage associated with service life. Secondly, where appropriate, to apply special treatment, particularly for those injured in the course of their service. Complementing this, it is also vital for our serving men and women, especially those engaged in difficult and dangerous overseas campaigns, to know that the whole of Britain understands and appreciates the work that they do in our name. That is why the Prime Minister set up the national recognition inquiry.

The report made many recommendations, the majority of which have been accepted. We have been considering how we might implement them and I am pleased to announce that the Government have already taken action to bring a number of measures into effect, including on the wider wearing of uniforms in public, a more systematic approach to homecoming parades and new rules on dealing with Members of Parliament. However, we are also conscious of the need to avoid placing additional burdens on our hard-pressed armed forces, especially given the present level of commitment to operations, which must remain our top priority. Nevertheless, we welcome the study's objective to create more opportunities for contact between the armed forces and the society they serve and for the public to be able to express their support. Where we have not fully accepted recommendations, we are confident in most cases that we can give meaning to the intent behind the recommendation. Our detailed response to each of the recommendations is set out in the response that we are publishing today.

Copies of the response to the report are being placed in the Library of the House and will also be available from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Protected Mobility

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): The provision of protected vehicles to our forces in Iraq and Afghanistan has attracted considerable interest among hon. Members and the British public. I therefore felt it would be helpful to set out, following the Prime Minister's announcements and within the constraints of operational security, the current position on protected mobility, and our future intentions. This statement will touch on both Operations Telic and Herrick, but will mostly focus on Afghanistan.

We have already achieved a great deal in improving the protected mobility options available to commanders on operations. Mastiff is unquestionably a success story. For its role, Mastiff is delivering the very highest levels of protection available anywhere in the world. Where it can be used, and its size and weight mean that it has its limitations, it is clearly the vehicle of choice. That is why the Prime Minister announced a further order of these vehicles last year. The deliveries of Mastiff tranche two, which will begin in a month's time, will bring the Mastiff fleet we have available to support operations to over 280.

It is not only through Mastiff that we are delivering a world class protected vehicle capability; we are also delivering Ridgback. Using the smaller Cougar 4x4 chassis, and innovative, cutting-edge UK armour technologies, we will be able to deliver protection levels close to that of Mastiff in a package that is able to better access urban areas, increasing the survivability of troops in these roles. We have also recently procured 30 base Cougar vehicles, a mixture of 4x4 and 6x6, to augment our training fleet. By taking this action, we will ensure delivery of the right numbers of both vehicles into theatre as soon as is practicable.

In recent months, the nature of threat against our troops on the ground in Afghanistan has evolved significantly. It is vital that we respond urgently to these new threats to ensure that we continue to provide the best possible protection to our people. But delivering better protection for our troops is not just about 'heavy' vehicles such as Mastiff and Ridgback. In the hierarchy of force protection one should first seek not to be detected, if detected then seek not to be hit, and if hit not to be destroyed. On the more predictable and vulnerable operations we focus, rightly, on the latter part of that hierarchy, however for many of our roles we need to take a different approach, balancing the requirements of protection and agility.

Viking, Land Rover WMIK (Weapon Mount Installation Kit) and Jackal are all agile vehicles with high levels of off-road mobility which enable us to get off tracks and trails and to be unpredictable. The Land Rover WMIK and Jackal both allow us to operate in open desert and mountainous terrain, taking the fight to the enemy away from ground of their choosing. Jackal in particular is proving a significant success, delivering excellent protection, mobility, range and firepower. It is for this reason that we are procuring over 100 additional Jackal, costing around £75 million, to augment our current fleet; bringing the total to over 300.

Viking has provided an excellent capability in Afghanistan, giving us unparalleled access to areas around the Helmand river. But, although we are providing some further enhancements to its protection, we have reached the limit of its ability to carry extra weight and protection. This is why we intend to replace Viking in Afghanistan with an alternative, better protected, high mobility vehicle, to be known as Warthog; work is underway to identify the right vehicle to fulfil this role. We will procure over 100 new vehicles with deliveries starting at the end of next year.

We are also planning to modify Panther with a few theatre specific alterations in order to field it to Afghanistan. Bought through the defence equipment programme as a command and liaison vehicle for the conventional battlefield, Panther offers excellent mobility and impressive levels of protection for its size. With a full communications capability, it will offer a capable addition to the options available in certain roles.

Inevitably, any statement on protected mobility must address the role of Snatch Land Rover, a vehicle which has received considerable criticism. First, to be absolutely clear, I can inform the House that—in addition to the regular reviews that are conducted into protected mobility—senior operational commanders were asked to specifically consider the requirement for Snatch Land Rover and its importance to operations. The response was clear: commanders need a vehicle of the size, weight and profile of Snatch Land Rover, capable of transporting men, to fulfil their tasks in theatre. Further, the availability of such a vehicle is considered mission critical.

This does not mean that no action can be taken on Snatch. We have set in train a programme to apply the lessons we have learned from the development of Mastiff and Ridgback to Snatch. We have modified Snatch's running gear, chassis, engine, and other automotive components to give the vehicle more power and the ability to carry a greater load. The extra power and payload allow us to carry out a series of modifications, details of which hon. Members will understand I am unable to share, to enhance its mobility and protection. This effectively generates a new variant, especially configured for Afghanistan, the Snatch Vixen. We have already fielded a small number of these vehicles, and we will be substantially increasing the size of the fleet over the coming year.

We cannot make Snatch invulnerable; any vehicle can be overmatched if faced with an overwhelming attack. But these modifications mean that Snatch Vixen will offer the highest levels of protection for its size and weight class.

The need to protect our people to the highest possible standards does not stop with the patrol and fighting vehicles. We need to look closely at the vehicles that are providing the integral logistic and engineering support in this hostile environment. We have already announced the fielding of the newly procured Support Vehicle (SV) to Afghanistan and Iraq replacing our existing fleet of 4, 8 and 14 tonne cargo vehicles with a modern and better protected logistic vehicle. We have also used a number of SV chassis to develop a new Enhanced Palletised Load System (EPLS) which is replacing the deployed DROPS capability.

But we believe there is still more we can do. In Afghanistan we have a number of units who are sometimes required to operate 'outside the wire' who are equipped with light utility 'B' vehicles such as the Pinzgauer 4x4 and the general service Land Rover. In the context of the evolving threat, we have therefore decided to procure over 400 new light, medium and heavy protected utility vehicles, to be known respectively as Coyote, Husky and Wolfhound. The Tactical Support Vehicles (TSV), delivering from June 2009, will ensure that all our troops are operating in an appropriately protected vehicle.

Training plays a crucial part in the success of our troops in theatre. The protected mobility package includes sufficient numbers of each of the vehicles to ensure that all troops are fully trained; vehicles will not be deployed to theatre until the appropriate levels of training have been conducted.

£500 million of funding has been allocated from the reserve towards this protected mobility package, which is expected to cost over £600 million in total. Defence will fund a part of the package in acknowledgement of the longer-term benefit to core defence capability these vehicles offer beyond our current commitments.

Vehicles, of course, are only part of the answer; hon. Members are well aware of the crucial role played by tactics, techniques and procedures in protecting our troops from harm. Equally, our world-leading electronic counter-measures provide an extra, crucial, layer of force protection. We will also investigate new ways of approaching force protection where we can; this is why we are working on the development of a route proving and clearing capability, known as Talisman. This capability, which has been allocated £96 million from the reserve, and uses specialist vehicles such as the Buffalo mine-protected vehicle, aims to deliver a system which allows us to mitigate the risks faced by our forces in a proactive way by applying technology to the challenge of transiting routes and dealing with high-risk areas.

We owe a great debt to the men and women of the armed forces who operate in hostile environments, risking their lives to secure the freedom that has been hard won for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan and to ensure that international terrorism, which threatens us all, far beyond those two countries, is not allowed to take hold. It is beholden on us to ensure that they receive the very best support and the very best equipment for the roles they are undertaking. In this statement today, I have outlined a road map which will deliver nearly 700 new vehicles at a cost of over £700 million, and enable us to remove some 400 lesser protected vehicles from operations. I firmly believe that this plan, once implemented, will give our armed forces the protection and mobility they need and deserve to do their jobs as safely and effectively as modern technology can provide.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Tibet

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): A new round of talks on Tibet between the Chinese Government and representatives of the Dalai Lama is likely to take place shortly. These talks are hugely important for the future of Tibet. They provide the only forum in which there is any realistic possibility of progress to resolve the differences between the parties involved.

The Chinese Government have said that they are serious about dialogue and that they hope for a positive outcome. They have set conditions for dialogue that we believe the Dalai Lama has met. The Dalai Lama has made clear that he is not seeking separation or independence. He has said repeatedly that he is seeking a resolution to the situation of Tibet within the framework of the Chinese constitution, a point he made explicitly in an interview with the Financial Times on 24 May during his visit to the United Kingdom. He said: he was "not seeking separation, not seeking independence, but within the framework of the Chinese constitution, meaningful realistic autonomy [for Tibetans]". He has maintained a clear opposition to violence.

The British Government have a strong interest in the dialogue between the Chinese Government and the Dalai Lama's representatives, although we are not party to it. No Government that are committed to promoting international respect for human rights can remain silent on the issue of Tibet, or disinterested in a solution to its problems.

Britain has been clear under this Government about their commitment to the people of Tibet. We remain deeply concerned about the human rights situation there. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out our concerns to Premier Wen during discussions in the spring and again when they met in Beijing during the Olympic games. I have made the same point to Foreign Minister Yang on a number of occasions since the unrest in March this year in Tibet. We have consistently made clear that we want to see the human rights of the Tibetan people respected, including through respect for their distinct culture, language, traditions and religions. Our interest is not in restoring an order that existed 60 years ago and that the Dalai Lama himself has said he does not seek to restore.

We are also concerned about more immediate issues arising directly from the unrest of this spring, including the situation of those who remain in detention following the unrest, the increased constraints on religious activity, and the limitations on free access to the Tibetan autonomous region by diplomats and journalists. These issues reinforce long-held unease on the part of the Government about the underlying human rights situation in Tibet.

Other countries have made similar points. But our position is unusual for one reason of history that has been imported into the present: the anachronism of our formal position on whether Tibet is part of China, and whether in fact we harbour continued designs to see the break-up of China. We do not.

Our ability to get our points across has sometimes been clouded by the position the UK took at the start of the 20th century on the status of Tibet, a position based on the geopolitics of the time. Our recognition of China's "special position" in Tibet developed from the outdated concept of suzerainty. Some have used this to cast doubt on the aims we are pursuing and to claim that we are denying Chinese sovereignty over a large part of its own territory. We have made clear to the Chinese Government, and publicly, that we do not support Tibetan independence. Like every other EU member state, and the United States, we regard Tibet as part of the People's Republic of China. Our interest is in long-term stability, which can only be achieved through respect for human rights and greater autonomy for the Tibetans.

We have noted recent comments by the Dalai Lama regretting the lack of progress in the dialogue so far. We are also aware of indications of growing frustration among some Tibetans about the dialogue process. We consider the position the Dalai Lama has stated publicly, including when he visited Britain this year, that he opposes violence and is seeking meaningful autonomy within the framework of the Chinese constitution, provides a basis for a negotiated settlement. Our strong view is that genuine progress at the next round of talks is essential to promote progress on such a settlement. Participation in these talks carries a weight of responsibility for both parties.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Education (Student Support) Regulations

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): This Government believe that everyone with the talent and ambition to enter higher education should be able to benefit from the opportunity. Investment by this Government means that by the end of this comprehensive spending review period in 2010-11, Government funding will have risen by nearly 30 per cent. in real terms since 1997. There are 287,000 more higher education students than in 1997 and the unit of funding has been maintained in real terms. We have also succeeded in raising aspirations—over 50 per cent. of young people from every social background and every part of the country aspire to go to university.

Finance should not present a practical barrier to students wishing to study at university. In 2006, the Government introduced a new system of student financial support which offered a maximum grant of £2,700 and a minimum bursary of £300 annually for students from low-income households. In July 2007, I announced that, from 2008-09, this scheme would be significantly enhanced by raising the family income thresholds for both full and partial grants. At the time, I told the House that our intention was for one third of students to receive a full grant and a further third a partial grant. The new system came into effect this academic year.

It is now expected that about 40 per cent. of students may receive the full grant. The total number of students receiving a full or partial grant will also exceed the original projections. I have decided to make extra money available in response to this higher demand for student support so that total spending on the student financial support system will rise above the levels set out in July 2007. Spending will increase by a further £100 million per annum when the revised system reaches steady state.

For students coming into university in 2009-10 student support—like the child tax credit—will focus help on families earning up to £50,000 who are doing the right thing by supporting their children to go to university:

the family income threshold for the full grant will remain at the enhanced level of £25,000, which we expect will provide around 40 per cent. of students with a full grant, exceeding the intention announced last July for one third of students to receive a full grant;

the family income threshold for a partial grant will be £50,020, which means that all students with household incomes of £18,360—£50,020 will be eligible for higher levels of grant than in 2007-08;

all students with a household income of £18,360—£57,708 will be eligible for a more generous package of grant and loan support than in 2007-08; and

consequently, we are maintaining the intention that two-thirds of students should receive either a full or a partial grant.

The new student support arrangements will only be applicable to new students entering higher education in 2009-10. Existing students will receive the same support as they were entitled to receive when they started university.

I propose to lay before Parliament amending regulations to adjust the eligibility for student grants and loans. Following approval by Parliament, they will take some weeks to implement. I have therefore asked the Student Loans Company to begin processing applications for student support in the new year.

The full annual impact of these changes will reduce the cost pressure by £100 million. For the rest of this spending review period it will be necessary to make incremental adjustments to the DIUS budget, which totals over £20 billion. My Department is well on the way to identifying £1.5 billion of cash-releasing efficiency savings over the period, and further reductions will be sought. I also plan to deploy some of the departmental unallocated provision.

In making changes, we will:

maintain the ring-fenced science budget;

maintain the unit of funding for students in higher education;

continue to increase HE student numbers annually towards our participation target; and

continue to increase investment in further education and skills, including expansion of the "Train to Gain" programme.

I am today asking HEFCE to allocate no more than 10,000 additional student numbers for 2009-10. This means that, in 2009-10, there will be 30,000 more funded students, full-time equivalent, compared to 2007-08.

Details of other budget changes will be made available at the appropriate time in the usual manner.

JUSTICE

Juvenile Secure Settings (Restraint)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): On 24 June, the Minister for Children, Young People and Families and I announced our intention of publishing the report prepared by Peter Smallridge and Andrew Williamson on the use of restraint in juvenile secure settings, together with the Government's response, by the end of October.

The report covers a wide range of issues and consideration of them has necessitated detailed exploration which is still in progress. We will publish the report, and our response, by 15 December.

TRANSPORT

National Networks

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I am today announcing a programme of work to ensure that we make best use of our national transport networks and accelerate the process of identifying where future expansion is needed.

Our national transport networks are essential for people going about their day-to-day lives. In order to stimulate Britain's economic growth and support our position as a leading world economy it is essential that we make the right long-term investments in our transport infrastructure today and that we plan for future growth, in a way which is consistent with reducing greenhouse gas emissions overall.

The work will build on the recommendations by Sir Rod Eddington and the Government's October 2007 response, "Towards a Sustainable Transport System".

The Minister of State, Lord Adonis, will chair a national networks strategy group, with senior partners from the Highways Agency, Network Rail, HM Treasury and other Government Departments as required. I have asked that the group focus on two issues. First, how to make best use of the existing key networks, for example, by the selective extension of rail electrification or the wider implementation of hard shoulder running on our motorways to provide additional capacity for motorists and to give them greater reliability and choice.

Alongside this, the study will focus on longer-term solutions for the strategic corridors. This will include consideration of wholly new rail lines, including high speed rail. We are committed to developing a modern sustainable rail system that supports economic growth, including housing development, and the climate change agenda. New lines have great potential and it is important that we start now to plan for future growth.

However, it is crucial that the case for such investment is underpinned by robust evidence on long-term demand projections and a clear understanding of the capacity of the existing networks, and takes full account of relevant geographical, technical and environmental considerations. The national networks strategy group will build on the work on new lines being undertaken by Network Rail.

This programme of work will be taken forward immediately. I have asked Lord Adonis to report on progress early in 2009.

Terms of reference for the national networks strategy group have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 30 October 2008

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs Council was held on 24 October 2008 in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the Scottish Minister for Community Safety and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following items were discussed:

The morning of the Council focused on interior items and commenced with the Mixed Committee, which included Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. The legal migration texts on the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) were adopted. The Commission noted that testing on the central system had been suspended due to technical difficulties, but that tests should recommence on 5 November. The Commission stated that the stability of the central system and minimising the impact on timetabling were a priority. On the Schengen Information System Network (SISNET), the Council secretariat reported that migration had progressed well and was scheduled to finish on 25 October.

Cybercrime was the first item discussed on the main agenda. The Council conclusions were agreed and the presidency stated that the new EU platform hosted by Europol would enable the EU to combat cybercrime. The incoming Czech presidency announced that it would be holding a ministerial conference entitled "Safer Internet for Children" on 28 April 2009 in Prague.

Next the Council conclusions on the principle of convergence were agreed. The presidency explained how convergence consisted of the need to be pragmatic and concrete, and to find specific areas where the EU could work more closely together in an atmosphere of trust. Hungary made a short presentation on the work of the Salzburg forum, an example of regional co-operation.

In the discussion on West African drug trafficking, the presidency stressed the strategic importance of tackling the emerging issue of trafficking at an early stage. The UK welcomed the presidency's initiative, emphasising the dramatic trends which had been seen in drug trafficking from West Africa. The experience of the Maritime Analysis Operations Centre (MAOC) demonstrated what could be achieved with concerted EU action. The UK welcomed the Czech and Swedish presidencies' priority on this issue, and supported the French presidency's proposal that West Africa should be a priority region in the next EU drugs strategy.

During a discussion on passenger name records (PNR), the UK welcomed progress made during the French presidency, highlighting the beneficial experience that the UK had with using passenger name records to date. The UK thought there should be progress by the time of the European elections next June, and that the final instrument should allow member states to focus on those flights which were thought to present the greatest risk, rather than obliging them to collect data on all flights. The Czech presidency invited the UK to help organise a 'roadshow' on the benefits of a PNR system. The current presidency concluded that they would provide a report to the JHA Council in November.

Over lunch, the presidency pushed the case for a guaranteed minimum availability of civil protection resources at EU level: a system of European mutual assistance. The UK, together with other member states, shared strong concerns about the proposed standby rota system. The presidency stressed that this did not mean assets would be left idle, and emphasised that member states would have the right to reserve assets in the case of a national emergency. The key element of the proposed system was the ability to know what assets were available and to be able to plan on that basis. The Commission supported the presidency's analysis and welcomed the proposed system of European mutual assistance.

Also over lunch, the Commission called for Ministers to consider the potential role of security technology in the post-Hague programme, to see what potential there was for new technologies to contribute to policy priorities, and to support the private sector in developing such technology. The Czech Republic noted that this issue would be amongst its presidency priorities.

In the afternoon the Council reached political agreement on the Council decision on the European criminal records information system (ECRIS). The UK welcomed agreement of an important measure to protect the public, and hoped that it would be possible to build on this in the future to cover monitoring of offenders—especially sex offenders. The Commission welcomed the rapid agreement and looked forward to implementation. It outlined the technical and financial assistance that was available to member states. The presidency thanked all member states for their co- operation and welcomed the political agreement reached.

The Council reached political agreement on the text of the proposal for a Council regulation on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and co-operation in matters relating to maintenance obligations. The UK has not opted in to this proposal. The UK thanked the presidency, Commission and other member states for their positive work to find a solution to the UK's concerns about the use of rules of applicable law in family cases. We explained that the matter remained subject to parliamentary scrutiny in the UK, but he hoped to be in a position to indicate the UK's wish to accept the measure after it had been adopted, under the terms of our protocol.

The Council approved the conclusions on the situation of vulnerable adults and their cross-border legal protection. The guidelines encourage member states who have not yet acceded to the Hague convention of 13 January 2000 on the international protection of vulnerable adults to either sign or ratify it as soon as possible. The UK has already ratified this convention in respect of Scotland, and work is in hand to extend such ratification to the rest of the UK.

The Council agreed a resolution of the Council and representatives of the Governments of member states, for a set of non-binding guidelines on judicial training, designed to encourage the bodies responsible for training of judges and prosecutors to improve training in European law, and promote understanding of other member states' legal systems.

The next Justice and Home Affairs council will take place on 27 and 28 November.

JUSTICE

Service Personnel (Inquests)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and I wish to make the following statement to the House about the inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. All deaths of members of our armed forces continue be a source of profound regret. We sympathise deeply with their families. Our servicemen and women show the highest courage and professionalism as they work to protect the United Kingdom's interests and help to build strong, stable, democratic nations. We cannot praise enough the job they do, or pay high enough tribute to the ultimate sacrifice that some of them have made.

Today, we are announcing the progress that has been made since the written ministerial statement on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 28WS, with information about the conduct of inquests by the Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Swindon and other coroners. This statement gives the position at 23 October but does not reflect the 15 October death on operations in Afghanistan of Trooper Munday, as the inquest had not yet been opened.

The tables that accompany this statement again include information about those ongoing cases that involve a board of inquiry.

Progress with inquests

At the time of the last statement, our Departments reported that since additional funding had been provided by the Government to assist the Oxfordshire coroner, 180 inquests had been held: 166 into the overseas deaths of service personnel and 14 into the deaths of civilians in Iraq whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton.

Since July, a further 29 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who died in operations overseas whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton or RAF Lyneham. This makes a total of 209 inquests held since June 2006. Since operations commenced there have been a total of 231 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including two servicemen who died in the UK of their injuries. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

We are grateful for the efforts of all the coroners involved in conducting these inquests, and our two Departments remain firmly committed in their support of the independent coronial system.

Open inquests

(i) Pre-31 March 2007 fatalities

The statement in July reported that there were nine inquests to be held into the deaths of service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton prior to 31 March 2007. As at 20 October, there are three such inquests. The Oxfordshire coroner has retained jurisdiction in two of these cases; the third has been transferred to the North Lincolnshire coroner. Hearing dates have been set in all three cases.

The inquests for the 10 crew members who died together in the crash of Hercules XV179 on 30 January 2005 concluded on 22 October.

(ii) Post-1 April 2007 fatalities

Since October 2007, additional resources have been provided by the Government to ensure that a backlog of inquests will not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon jurisdiction, now that fatalities are repatriated via RAF Lyneham. The coroner, Mr. Masters, is continuing the practice of transferring inquests for service personnel to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, where possible.

There are 56 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated after 1 April 2007. Of these, Mr. Masters has retained 28 inquests, while 28 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin. Inquest hearing dates have been set in six of these cases. Twenty five of these inquests relate to deaths of service personnel who have died over the last six months.

(iii) Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

There remain four inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries. Inquest hearing dates have been set in two of these cases.

We shall continue to keep the House informed on a quarterly basis about progress with the remaining inquests. I have placed tables in the Library of the House which outline the status of all cases and date of death of each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Liaison with the next of kin

It is of the greatest importance that the next of kin have full information about the progress of the inquest of their loved one.

We remain committed to providing better support to bereaved service families. The written ministerial statement issued on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 28WS, by the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) gave details of the support which was then being provided. Since then, we have increased the number of family members who can travel and stay overnight if necessary, at public expense, to attend the repatriation ceremony; and two family members may attend any pre-inquest hearings, as well as the inquest itself, again at public expense.

Visiting officers—who are appointed to provide liaison between families and the services—fulfil a crucial role, and we continue to give close attention to their selection and training.

The Defence Inquests Unit, which was established by the Ministry of Defence on 1 May, now acts as the focal point for all coroners' inquests into the deaths of service personnel and Ministry of Defence civilian personnel who die on, or as a result of injuries sustained while on operations; and those who die as a result of training activity. The unit's key role is to assist coroners so that they can complete inquests satisfactorily and as quickly as possible. It reflects a firm commitment to the proper support of coroners and bereaved families and to learning the lessons of the process.

PRIME MINISTER

House of Lords Appointments Commission

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today placed the House of Lords Appointments Commission Annual Report 2007-08 in the Libraries of both Houses. I am grateful to the members of the Commission for the report and their valuable work during the period.

In addition, I am today announcing the appointments of three new Independent Members of the House of Lords Appointments Commission. They are: Baroness Jane Campbell DBE; Professor Dame Joan Higgins; and Dr John Low CBE. They have been appointed following an open competition run in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice, each for a single non-renewable term of five years.

Petition

Monday 20 October 2008

OBSERVATIONS

TREASURY

Energy Efficiency

The Petition of Andy Jones and concerned residents,

Declares that substantial energy savings, and consequential environmental benefits, can be achieved by the use of high technology, generic, double glazing and other energy efficiency products and components and that the Government should therefore reduce VAT on such technically advanced products.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reduce VAT to 5% on products and components that will make a significant contribution to improving energy efficiency.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 7 October 2008; Vol. 480, c. 249.]

[P000271]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Government notes the petition, and makes the following observations:

The Government recognises the energy savings and environmental benefits that can be achieved by the use of energy-efficient products and energy-saving materials, and has introduced various measures in their support, including the CERT (Carbon Emissions Reduction Target), the Landlords Energy Saving Allowance and updated building regulations. The availability of VAT reduced rates is governed by the European VAT agreements signed by successive governments, which do not currently permit a reduced VAT rate to be applied to the sale of these products. However, these agreements have allowed the Government to introduce a reduced rate of VAT for the domestic installation of certain energy-saving materials, such as insulation and draught stripping. Furthermore, the Government is actively making the case at EU level for more widespread application of reduced VAT rates to energy-saving materials and energy-efficient products.

Petition

Tuesday 21 October 2008

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Ankylosing Spondylitis

The Petition of those concerned about the provision of anti-TNF medicines for patients with ankylosing spondylitis.

Declares that some Primary Care Trusts are not providing anti-TNF medicines for patients with ankylosing spondylitis.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to investigate why some Primary Care Trusts are not providing anti-TNF medicines for patients with ankylosing spondylitis.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew George, Official Report, 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 623.]*
[P000252]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

On 28 May 2008, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued technology appraisal guidance recommending Adalimumab or etanercept (anti-TNF medications) as possible treatments for people with severe ankylosing spondylitis who:

have active spinal disease as assessed on two separate occasions 12 weeks apart; and

have tried at least two non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) but they have not worked.

The NHS is legally obliged to fund and resource medicines and treatments recommended by NICE's technology appraisals, three months from the date of publication of the guidance.

All patients in England with ankylosing spondylitis, who meet the clinical requirements detailed in the published NICE guidance, should therefore be offered either Adalimumab or etanercept from 28 August 2008.

Petitions

Monday 27 October 2008

OBSERVATIONS

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Ending Violence Against Women

The Petition of the Women's Institute ending violence against women campaign,

Declares that 3 million women across the UK experience rape, domestic violence, forced marriage, stalking, sexual exploitation, trafficking or another form of violence each year; the Women's Institute is concerned that the Government is not doing enough to prevent violence against women occurring; there seems to be a mentality that abuse of women and girls is a fact of life. The petitioners believe that violence against women is a cause and consequence of women's inequality. In 1995 the UK adopted the platform for Action in Beijing at the 4th World Conference on Women to address the goals of inequality, development and peace for all women around the world. There were twelve critical areas of concern where strategic action was needed; one of these was violence against women.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to stand by the UK's commitment to afford women and girls their basic human rights to live free from violence and its threat by taking steps to eliminate violence against women.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Selous, Official Report*, 7 October 2008; Vol. 480, c. 248.]

[P000269]

Observations from the Minister for Women and Equality:

The Government is committed to addressing violence against women, in all its forms, and whatever circumstances. Violence against women perpetuates inequality and this Government does not accept that it should ever be viewed as a "fact of life".

In recent years this Government has done a great deal to step up action to tackle violence against women, support victims and bring perpetrators to justice through our inter-linked action plans on domestic violence, sexual violence and assault and, human trafficking. This is in addition to legislation introduced by this Government, such as the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004, which has improved both the way in which the criminal justice system deals with these crimes and victims' access to justice.

Tackling violence against women is one of the three priorities for the Ministers for Women. In July, the Government Equalities Office published Women's Changing Lives setting out progress against these priorities, including:

> A £1 million cross-Government special fund to support rape crisis centres, helping them to stay open and delivering support to victims;
>
> Improved support and access to justice for victims of domestic violence through the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts programme and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences ensuring more successful prosecutions and fewer repeat incidences of domestic violence;
>
> Introduction and implementation of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 which will give courts the power to issue Forced Marriage Protection Orders to prevent someone from forcing another person into marriage;
>
> A Tackling Demand Review, led by the Home Office, to look at what more could be done to tackle the demand side of prostitution in order to protect those involved from sexual exploitation;
>
> A UK-wide anti-trafficking policing operation, Operation Pentameter 2 in 2008 which resulted in the successful recovery of 167 victims.

More recently, the Home Secretary has announced £1.6 million in funding for new and existing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)—the Government wants to see a SARC in every area. We are on course to meet our commitment to ratify the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings by the end of this year, introducing a 45-day minimum reflection period for all identified victims and temporary one-year renewable residence permits in certain circumstances. This goes beyond Convention requirements.

We are not complacent and we recognise that there is more to do in order to tackle violence against women. Addressing underlying attitudes which facilitate these crimes is essential, which is why the Government Equalities Office has commissioned work to examine how we can improve the effectiveness of media campaigns addressing violence against women. The Home Office has recently commissioned scoping work to investigate how Government as a whole can be more strategic in its approach to violence against women.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Buckinghamshire)

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Hazelmere Post Office,

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Hazelmere Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan, Official Report*, 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 23P .] [P000262]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why they are determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and have put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of their decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of 42 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be complete by the end of this year. The consultation period for South Essex, South Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire finished on 17 June and POL has published its area plan decision booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that Hazelmere branch is to close. Further details of the closures are available on the POL website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography—rivers, mountains etc.—when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Waterside Post Office.

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Waterside Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan, Official Report*, 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 23P .] [P000263]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why they are determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and have put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of their decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for South Essex, South Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire finished on 17 June and POL has published its area plan decision booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that the Waterside branch is to close. Details of the closures are available on the POL website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography—rivers, mountains etc.—when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Botley Stores Post Office.

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Botley Stores Post Office open

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan, Official Report, 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 24P .]* [P000264]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why they are determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and have put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of their decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for South Essex, South Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire has finished and POL has published its area plan decision booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that the Botley branch is to close. Details of the closures and any further reviews will be available on the POL website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography—rivers, mountains etc.—when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Chalfont Common Post Office.

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Chalfont Common Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan, Official Report, 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 24P .]* [P000265]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why they are determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and have put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of their decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for South Essex, South Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire finished on 17 June and POL has published its area plan decision booklet confirming that Chalfont Common will remain open. Taking in all relevant factors and local opinion POL decided not to proceed with the closure. Details of closures and any further reviews are available on the POL website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography—rivers, mountains etc.—when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Old Amersham Post Office,

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Old Amersham Post Office open

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan, Official Report, 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 24P.]* [P000261]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why they are determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and have put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of their decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of 42 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be complete by the end of this year. The consultation period for South Essex, South Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire finished on 17 June and POL has published its area plan decision booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that the Amersham Old Town branch is to close. Further details of the closures are available on the POL website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography—rivers, mountains etc.—when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or:
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

C

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 20 October 2008

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding was provided by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU in the form of aid to African countries in each of the last five years, broken down by country. [226845]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have placed in the Library a table which details the level of Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by the United Kingdom, the EU15 and European Commission to African countries over the period 2002-06. I have also included data on the level of UK ODA to African countries in 2007.

Africa: Trade

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department is supporting to promote trade between African countries. [226680]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) work to facilitate trade between African countries is mainly focused in east and southern Africa. In east Africa, DFID is preparing a major new regional programme which will help to facilitate trade between East African Community member states (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi). It will focus on reducing the costs of trading across borders by supporting one stop border posts, customs reforms and the development of revenue sharing arrangements between countries.

In southern Africa, DFID funds the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme. This aims to make it quicker and easier for businesses to trade between countries. Important activities include harmonisation of trade-related regulations and procedures, introduction of one stop border posts, and promotion of exports into the south African market.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department is supporting to promote the manufacture of goods marketed in finished form from Africa, rather than the export of raw materials. [226681]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Much of Sub-Saharan Africa has been a relatively difficult place for manufacturing activities. Key reasons for this are poor infrastructure, particularly roads, ports and power infrastructure, a poor business environment and restrictive rules of origin in trade agreements.

The Department for International Development (DFID) works on all of these agendas. For example, DFID provides support to the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA). This encourages a joined-up approach among donors and partner governments to meet Africa's urgent infrastructure needs. We also provide support to the Investment Climate Facility for Africa which is a new private-public partnership, focused on improving the investment climate in African countries.

DFID's soon to be launched Aid for Trade Strategy will set out how we will support countries to become more competitive traders. In parallel, DFID continues to press for more development-friendly trade agreements with African countries. This is particularly evident in the ongoing negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), where we are arguing for more liberal rules of origin for African exports.

Burma: International Assistance

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage other donors to contribute to the joint UN-NGO fund in response to the cyclone in Burma, launched on 10th July. [227401]

Mr. Michael Foster: On 9 July the Secretary of State for International Development wrote to a range of like-minded development Ministers urging them to offer generous support to the UN appeal for Burma which was to be launched the following day. The Secretary of State has also offered to support the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, in his efforts to encourage other donors to contribute more to the UN appeal. The Department for International Development (DFID) and Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) officials have followed up through bilateral contacts with other donors and in international forums.

The Secretary-General of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, is also working to encourage other donors to increase their contributions to the Burma cyclone relief effort.

Cuba: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what financial and other support the Government has provided directly or via multilateral agencies to assist with reconstruction in Cuba following hurricanes Gustav and Ike; and whether further assistance is planned; [228441]

(2) what assessment he has made of the progress of reconstruction in Cuba following hurricanes Gustav and Ike; and if he will make a statement. [228438]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £250,000 in direct humanitarian aid to Cuba through the International Red Cross for shelter material and water filters for some 40,000 people. In addition, the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has announced a relief contribution of €2 million, of which 17.5 per cent. is funded by DFID. The United Nations Relief Agencies have mobilised $8.6 million for relief and rehabilitation works in Cuba, $1.6 million of which is funded by DFID through the UN. However, the UN remains in negotiation with the Cuban authorities on full access and co-operation in order to use that money. We also understand that the Cuban government have received offers totalling $30.5 million from a number of countries to assist with their reconstruction and emergency response efforts following the impact of the recent hurricanes.

Beyond humanitarian relief we do not provide direct reconstruction or long-term development aid to Cuba. We do not have direct access in Cuba either for making our own assessments of humanitarian or reconstruction needs and rely on assessments and programmes undertaken by international agencies such as the World Bank.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's rest and recuperation leave policy for civilians working in operational theatres. [226986]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Arrangements for rest and recuperation leave ("breather breaks") are developed in response to specific operational needs and the changing context of each country. They currently apply to staff working Iraq and Afghanistan.

Employees are entitled to a two week break away from post for every six weeks worked. Breaks are usually taken within the employee's home country but can be taken elsewhere on condition that this is of equal or lesser cost.

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226527]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) main area of advertising spend is recruitment and procurement advertising which is assessed in terms of response rate and quality. However, DFID is introducing an e-enabled recruitment system that will help with this evaluation in the future.

In the last 12 months DFID has moved increasingly towards advertising via electronic media, which is much easier to track and evaluate in terms of responses to adverts and in terms of which method provides the best value for money. This is an ongoing process and the results are being used to inform future campaigns and promotional work.

DFID is committed to reducing the cost of advertising generally by the use of more focused advertisements and through maximising discounts through the Central Office of Information.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [226423]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID paid a total of £641,510 in non-consolidated performance bonuses to 71 senior civil servants in the last year in recognition of their performance during the 2007-08 reporting year.

DFID's reward arrangements for the 2007-08 financial year did not allow for the payment of end of year performance bonuses to staff below the senior civil service.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on departmental public expenditure, whether the programmes to which underspend can be re-allocated must be within the same country budget as the programme in which the underspend occurred. [228452]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Underspends on programmes do not have to be reallocated to other programmes within the same country budget.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226802]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In accordance with the Civil Service Recruitment Code, all external appointments to the Department for International Development (DFID) are made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition.

Job advertisements for vacancies at the Department for International Development (DFID) are placed in the national press or specialised magazines, in addition to appearing on DFID's own website and on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway website. DFID does not routinely use recruitment consultants to fill vacancies for permanent posts. However, the central framework of executive search services, which is owned by the Cabinet Office, was used in February 2008 to engage Russell Reynolds Associates, at a cost of £43,671, to help identify suitable applicants for the post of Permanent Secretary in DFID.

DFID also periodically engages temporary staff through recruitment agencies, mainly in administrative grades. A management fee is included in the salary costs for each person supplied by the agency, but it is not possible to disaggregate the management fees from the total amount charged by the agencies without incurring disproportionate costs.

DFID's total spend on recruitment advertising for each of the last five financial years was as follows:

	£
2003-04	£519,331
2004-05	£534,731
2005-06	£348,502
2006-07	£425,961
2007-08	£199,758

Overseas Aid

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken *(a)* to ensure that UK aid reaches its intended targets and *(b)* to reduce fraud. [226846]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development has a strong set of controls to manage the risk of misuse of funds. Throughout the management of our programmes, there is a strong emphasis on establishing comprehensive arrangements to guard against fiduciary risks. The rules of UK Government accounting are rigorously applied.

DFID checks on the use of funds by requiring recipients to provide audited financial statements and by conducting annual monitoring reviews. DFID's programme management is supported by regular audits by DFID's Internal Audit Department and the National Audit Office, both providing further evidence of the correct use of aid funds.

Within DFID's fraud policy specific actions to reduce the incidence of fraud include:

DFID's programmes are designed to respond from the outset to the risks of fraud or corruption which are identified through planning tools such as the fiduciary risk assessment;

A specialist Counter Fraud Unit coordinates DFID's response to allegations or suspicions of fraud and corruption, and provides support to management to strengthen systems and processes to prevent or detect future losses; and

Action is taken to recover funds which are lost, and DFID takes a robust approach in dealing with anyone found to have diverted UK aid funds away from their intended recipients. This includes disciplinary sanctions, criminal prosecutions, recovery of losses and the suspension of aid.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Buildings

Ben Chapman: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much space, in square feet, was occupied by all House staff in each of the last five years. [223930]

Nick Harvey: Figures on this basis are not readily available. Evidence given to the Administration Committee in March 2006 showed the total floor area occupied by House staff was 13,140 sq m (Third Report 2005-06, HC 1279, p Ev 52). Details of the size of the different buildings on the parliamentary estate were given in my answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 87W.

Palace of Westminster

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what representations the Commission has received from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment on the erection of temporary structures on the Terrace; what the Commission's policy is on the erection and dismantling of such structures; and if he will make a statement. [227342]

Nick Harvey: The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment has advised that the erection of temporary structures on the Terrace is more a matter for the local planning authority advised by English Heritage rather than their organisation.

The House does not have a policy on the erection of temporary structures, the matter being delegated to the Director General of Facilities who will consult the appropriate authorities according to the sensitivity of the proposal.

Conservation bodies have expressed concern for some time about the appearance of the marquees on the Terrace. However, Members and their visitors greatly value the facilities they provide and they are in considerable demand. The existing structures are, however, coming to the end of their economic life. The question of their replacement will need to be addressed soon requiring wide consultation in both Houses before deciding on a way forward.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Conference Centres: South East

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to support the development of improved large conference facilities in the South East. [228020]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government does not actively support or engage in the development of improved large conference facilities in the south-east. Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS6): 'Planning for Town Centres' sets out the Government's national policies for town centres and main town centre uses, including the provision of conference facilities.

Fire Prevention: Advisory Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to regulate the work of fire assessors, with particular reference to the accuracy of advice provided by them. [226664]

Mr. Khan: The Government have no plans to regulate the work of fire safety risk advisors or assessors.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest estimated date is for when each of the nine regional fire control centres will become operational. [226454]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 541W which set out the timetable for the project. Since then, proposed changes to the hardware solution and issues regarding access to the Airwave infrastructure for testing suggest that some rescheduling of the project may be required. The implications of these points are currently being considered and if timescales do need to change an announcement will be made in due course.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review the Regional Controls Centre Physical Access Control and Security Policy for Regional Controls document; and if she will make a statement. [227312]

Mr. Khan: The regional control centres buildings are part of the Critical National Infrastructure and have been subject to thorough risk assessments in accordance with Government security policy and guidance as well as ISO 27001/17799 best practice and standards. There are no plans to review the guidance material developed that has been issued covering physical access control and security policy for the regional control centres

We are providing support to the local authority controlling companies who manage the regional control centres and who will create their own access control and security policies based on the guidance material.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the savings generated by the 2007 National Review of the FiReControl Project Business Case were allocated, broken down by sub-heading; and if she will make a statement. [227350]

Mr. Khan: The savings generated in the FiReControl Full Business Case v1.0, which was published in June 2007, are broken down as follows:

£ million

Cost element	*Estimated annual operating costs for FiReControl*	*Current control room annual operating cost estimates*	*Savings*
Staff	34	60	26
Accommodation	13	4	-9
IT Services	18	16	-2
Group Services	1	n/a	-1
Total	66	80	14

Part 2 of the 2008 National Business Case to be published later this year will provide updated information.

Fire Services: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value was of public sector pensions in the fire service in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of providing such pensions in each year. [228433]

Mr. Khan: The value of firefighters' pensions[1] in each of the last five years is as follows

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total pensions outgo	399.492	443.019	489.258	453.622	491.571
Cost to public purse	[3]n/a	327.606	362.895	346.469	370.564

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[1] These are locally administered schemes and data are provided by fire and rescue authorities.

[2] Net of employees' contributions of 11 per cent. of pensionable pay for the 1992 firefighters' pension scheme and 8.5 per cent. for the 2006 new fire-fighters' pension scheme and inward transfers from other pensions schemes

[3] Data on employee contributions and transfer values are not collected centrally.

Floods: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what hydrological assessments have been made of the state of water courses and consequential flood risk in rural Bassetlaw since 1978. [225323]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

From 1996 the Environment Agency can confirm the following work has been undertaken:

Idle & Torne Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) which was published in March 2007.

Hydrological investigations have been carried out for Anglian Water (by Grontmij) on the River Poulter and River Idle.

Groundwater abstractions operated by Yorkshire Water in the area of the River Idle have been reviewed to ascertain whether they were having an impact on the wellbeing of the River Idle Washlands.

In December 2006 the Environment Agency produced the River Idle Washlands SSSI Water Level Management Plan (WLMP).

The Environment Agency are currently working on the building of a regional groundwater model for the East Midlands Yorkshire Sherwood Sandstone Model. This is due to be completed by the end of this financial year.

Following the flooding of June 2007 the Environment Agency commissioned consultants to produce reports about the events that occurred in Worksop and Retford.

The Environment Agency has carried out the following mapping studies, which include hydrological analyses, within the Bassetlaw constituency:

River Idle Flood Risk Mapping, March 2005

River Maun, Strategic Flood Risk Mapping, March 2007

River Meden, Strategic Flood Risk Mapping, June 2008

River Ryton, Strategic Flood Risk Mapping, March 2008

Tidal Trent Strategy, April 2005

Laneham Beck Strategic Flood Risk Mapping, 2007.

Information on studies carried out pre-1996 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Government: Bank Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what advice and when her Department has provided to local authorities on financial investment risk since January 2007; [228446]

(2) on what dates and by whom local authorities were provided with risk advice on investments in 2007 and 2008. [228449]

John Healey: CLG's current guidance on local government investments issued under section 15 of the Local Government Act 2003 is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have identified a severe short-term financial difficulty as result of the financial collapse of an Icelandic bank; and what assessment she has made of the extent of the difficulty in each case. [228448]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 17 October, *Official Report*, column 1577W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* cautioned and *(c)* proceeded against for buying or attempting to buy alcohol for someone under age in each of the last three years. [228123]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The offence of buying or attempting to buy alcohol for someone under age is not a notifiable offence and does not form a part of the arrests collection.

In relation to those cautioned and proceeded against for the offence of buying or attempting to buy alcohol for someone under age; I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing, my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) on 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2146W.

Data for 2007 will be available in November 2008.

Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has conducted a review of *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support provided to people at all stages of the asylum process. [227536]

Mr. Woolas: Asylum seekers who are destitute, or likely to become destitute, are provided with support under sections 95 and 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim has been fully determined. This support takes the form of cash subsistence or accommodation, or both. Failed asylum seekers can receive support, as accommodation and non-cash vouchers, under section 4 of the Act if they would otherwise be destitute and they are taking reasonable steps to return or are able to point to a legitimate barrier to their return.

Cash subsistence support rates for asylum seekers supported under section 95 are reviewed annually.

In January 2008 new regulations came into force following a review and public consultation on essential living needs not connected with the provision of accommodation under section 4 for the most vulnerable.

Regional Target Contracts for the provision of accommodation across the UK were introduced from 2006 following a review which identified how contractual improvements could be made.

We are currently holding regional meetings with stakeholders to seek a range of views on how to improve the way we provide asylum support to asylum seekers, including those unsuccessful in their claim.

Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish her Department's evaluation of the alternatives to detention scheme at Millbank, Ashford, Kent. [227552]

Mr. Woolas: An independent consultant was recruited to carry out an assessment of the pilot. The report is being finalised and the findings will be published by the end of December 2008.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department expects the capacity of the immigration detention estate to be in *(a)* October 2009, *(b)* October 2010, *(c)* October 2011 and *(d)* October 2012. [227554]

Mr. Woolas: In October 2009, on current plans, we expect 3,160 places; and in October 2010, 3,178 places. This reflects the anticipated loss of the Oakington centre over this period. The capacity of the estate beyond 2010 will depend, in particular, on the progress of our plans for the Home Office owned site outside Bicester and the land adjacent to the existing Yarl's Wood removal centre. We anticipate that development at one of those sites will add 400 to 600 beds to the estate by 2012.

Emergency Services: Radio

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the Airwave programme; and what discussions she has had with the Department of Health on the rollout of the programme to the Ambulance Service. [227377]

Mr. Coaker: The Airwave service is being used operationally by all police forces in England, Wales and Scotland including the British Transport Police and the Serious Organised Crime Agency. Several changes to the service have been made since the original contract was signed in February 2000. These comprise enhancements to resilience and fallback arrangements, plus an extension of the service to include coverage within the London Underground. The testing and release for operational use of the 125 underground stations is due to be completed by 30 March 2009. I hope to be able to provide an update on this in the near future.

The rollout of Airwave to the Ambulance Service, which is still in progress, has been carried out under a separate contract between the Department of Health and Airwave Solutions Limited. Programme management rests with the Department of Health but the police service and the Ambulance Service have appropriate consultation processes in place to progress areas of common interest such as interoperability.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1733W and 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1126W, on human trafficking, for what offences the 84 convictions were secured. [219468]

Jacqui Smith: The 84 convictions are for human trafficking and related offences, including rape, inciting prostitution, false imprisonment and immigration offences.

Immigrants: Fees and Charges

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of its fee income from immigration documents and services for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the subsequent three financial years. [227530]

Mr. Woolas: Our estimate of fee income for 2008-09 from visa application is £300 million.

Our estimate of fee income for 2008-09 from in country application is £350 million.

Forecasts are subject to change on a regular basis, at least quarterly; sometimes more frequently than that, as they are revised to account for various events that we believe will impact upon demand.

We are reviewing the position next year in the run-up to laying fees orders and as part of the development of business plan for next year. We do not currently have estimates of fee income for the subsequent three years at the moment as fees have not yet been set for future years.

Immigrants: Police Custody

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Immigration Service detainees were held in police cells in each police force area in each year since 2001. [226843]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Offensive Weapons: Young People

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many successful prosecutions have been brought against those arrested for the sale of knives to underage persons through commercial premises in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the last 10 years; [225731]

(2) how many prosecutions for the sale of knives to underage persons have been brought against commercial premises in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the last 10 years; [225732]

(3) how many successful prosecutions have been brought against those arrested for the sale of knives to underage persons through internet sites and mail order companies in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the last 10 years; [225733]

(4) how many prosecutions for the sale of knives to underage persons have been brought against internet sites and mail order companies in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the last 10 years. [225734]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information on prosecutions and convictions for this offence is in the following table. Information does not distinguish individuals prosecuted or convicted. 2007 figures will be published in November 2008. On 1 October 2007 it became illegal to sell a knife to anyone under 18; previously the minimum age was 16.

Number of prosecutions[1] and convictions[2] for offences relating to sale of a knife to a person under 16 years in England, and Wales 1997 to 2006[3, 4]

			England		*England: of which (i.e. these figures are included in the England figures) are Others (i.e. companies etc)*		*Wales*		*Wales: of which (i.e. these figures are included in the Wales figures) are Others (i.e. companies etc)*	
Offence description	*Statute*	*Year*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Any person who sells to a person under age of 16 years a knife; knife blade, razor blade, axe and any other article which has a blade, that is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person.	Criminal Justice Act 1988, sec 141A as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, sec 6(1)	1997	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1998	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
		1999	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
		2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Number of prosecutions[1] and convictions[2] for offences relating to sale of a knife to a person under 16 years in England, and Wales 1997 to 2006[3, 4]

			England		*England: of which (i.e. these figures are included in the England figures) are Others (i.e. companies etc)*		*Wales*		*Wales: of which (i.e. these figures are included in the Wales figures) are Others (i.e. companies etc)*	
Offence description	*Statute*	*Year*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
		2001	6	5	5	4	3	3	0	0
		2002	11	10	7	7	0	0	0	0
		2003	15	15	7	7	2	2	1	1
		2004	9	7	5	4	2	2	0	0
		2005	29	26	8	7	0	0	0	0
		2006	62	50	20	16	1	1	0	0

[1] Prosecution data for England and Wales relate to the number of defendants which includes male, female and others.
The Others column shows the number of prosecutions for others (i.e. companies). This figure is already included in the respective areas' figures.

[2] Conviction data for England and Wales relate to the number of defendants which includes male, female and others. The Others column shows the number of convictions for others (i.e. companies). This figure is already included in the respective areas' figures.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Smuggling: Meat

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal meat imports were seized at port of entry in each of the last three years; what the *(a)* estimated market value and *(b)* weight of such seizures was in each year; what assessment she has made of the recent trends in these figures; and if she will make a statement. [227321]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number and weight of illegal meat seizures at GB points of entry are as follows:

Financial year	*Number of seizures*	*Total weight (kg)*
2005-06	14,698	82,110
2006-07	19,222	73,012
2007-08	14,067	77,230

Anti-smuggling controls on illegal imports of products of animal origin are designed to prevent the introduction of animal disease so the value of goods seized is not relevant in this context and therefore is not recorded.

Customs continue to target the animal products and routes that pose the greatest animal disease risk, taking account of the latest veterinary risk assessments. The increase in seizures in 2006-07 can be attributed to the additional resources deployed to tackle the threat from Avian Influenza during that period. More recently there are also some indications of increased compliance among the travelling public following HMRC's awareness-raising campaigns.

Terrorism

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the statement of 15 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 167-71WS, on counter-terrorism: progress report, what progress has been made on the development of a database of individuals who have demonstrated unacceptable behaviour. [227940]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* Since August 2005, 79 such individuals have to date been excluded from entering this country and placed on the watch list. This is on-going work which is being taken forward in co-operation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government, police, various community groups, and others who bring to our attention individuals who are considered to be engaging in unacceptable behaviour.

UK Border Agency: Boats

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the United Kingdom coastline is patrolled at least once a week by maritime craft from *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* other agencies engaged in border patrol. [227524]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency cutters are deployed on an intelligence-led basis to areas of highest risk. It is longstanding policy not to divulge details of operational deployments, as this could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent relevant controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention of crime.

UKBA does not record details of operations carried out by other agencies involved in border patrols.

UK Border Agency: Land

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* property and *(b)* land owned by the UK Border Agency is not in full-time use; and what the estimated market value is of each such holding. [227527]

Mr. Woolas: Bullington (formerly known as Bicester) is the only freehold property which is owned by the UK Border Agency but not in full-time use. No land is in part-time use. Current open market valuation in respect of this property is not available.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency expects to pay in rent to *(a)* other public bodies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* Government Departments for buildings and land in 2008-09. [227528]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border and Immigration Agency expects to pay rent of *(a)* £630,340 to other public bodies; *(b)* £42,120 to local authorities; and *(c)* £793,732 to Government Departments for buildings and land in 2008-09.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land are (i) owned and (ii) leased by the UK Border Agency; and how many full-time equivalent staff are based at each. [227529]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency owns four detention centres located at Harmondsworth, Colnbrook, Campsfield and Dungavel. 26.5 full-time equivalent staff are employed at these locations.

A further 96 buildings are leased. 17,463 staff are based at these locations.

Details of the numbers of staff based at each location will be published on the UK Border Agency website by the end of the year.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Yorkshire

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government has taken to improve business development in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Yorkshire since 2000. [226395]

Mr. McFadden: Since 2000 the Government have helped to ensure business success by promoting the creation and growth of business and a strong enterprise economy across all regions, ensuring that all Government Departments and agencies deliver better regulation for the private, public and third sectors and delivering free and fair markets, with greater competition, for businesses, consumers and employees.

Since 2000 the regional development agencies (RDAs) have been charged with stimulating the economic regeneration of the English regions through regional economic strategies.

The RDA for Yorkshire and the Humber, Yorkshire Forward, working together with local authorities and other regeneration organisations, has supported the building of a stronger, mixed economy that combines a strong service sector with a higher value manufacturing sector, with more people starting their own businesses and new businesses that survive longer. As a result, the region's economy has been transformed following the decline in core traditional industries and recovered well from natural disasters such as foot and mouth in 2001 and flooding in 2007. Latest data to 2006 show it has had consecutive years of growth above the EU average.

Latest statistics show there were over 350,000 businesses in the Yorkshire and the Humber region at the start of 2007, up by 94,000 (37 per cent.) from 256,000 in 2001.

Yorkshire Forward has been leading on the simplification of business support provision in the region. The most significant change for business so far has been the rationalisation of the Business Link network and the development of a single regional gateway to business support (Business Link Yorkshire) that was launched in April 2008. This will significantly reduce the duplication of services, provide greater clarity, and redirect resources into front-line support services for businesses in the region. Yorkshire Forward also plans to make significant changes to its own support mechanisms, to focus on supporting six core programmes of activity that aid the overall start up and growth of a business.

Examples of specific support programmes that have supported business development include:

Objective 1 European Funding for South Yorkshire—where the 2000-06 programme worth a total of £2.4 billion (including over £770 million from the European Union's Structural Fund budget as well as public and private sector resources) resulted in over 1,300 new small and medium enterprises and over 30,000 new jobs in the area.

Objective 2 European Funding for the rest of Yorkshire and the Humber—where total of nearly £1 billion (including £350 million of European Structural Funds alongside UK public and private sector sources) resulted in over 22,000 new jobs.

Yorkshire and Humber Manufacturing Advisory Service (Y and H MAS)—based on a national scheme, where since 2002 advisers have worked with almost 2,500 manufacturers across the region to improve their processes and productivity, helped to secure 17,640 jobs and create 1,140 new jobs and made productivity improvements which have contributed to an overall increase in turnover of over £200 million.

The region's Graduate Retention Programme, which has been running for six years, funded by Yorkshire Forward in partnership with the region's universities, which aims to retain graduates from the universities and colleges of Yorkshire and Humber, as well as the attracting graduate talent from outside the region. This is critically important for business' ability to compete on a national and international stage.

Centres of Industrial Collaboration (CICs)—are funded by Yorkshire Forward. They aim to get knowledge within universities into companies in practical ways. Since their launch in 2003 they have collaborated with over 1,800 businesses and generated more than £39 million of research income for the region.

Leeds and the wider Leeds city region have benefited, as have all parts of the region, from these programmes.

Since 2005, a major new driver for encouraging enterprise in the neediest areas of the region is the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI). Yorkshire and Humber has five LEGI partnerships, led by the local authorities, working to ensure wider benefits of business growth spread to more deprived communities. They will be supported by £128.6 million from the Government over five years. The five LEGI schemes cover Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Doncaster and North East Lincolnshire.

The Leeds LEGI programme, entitled 'Sharing the Success' aims to address great imbalances in the local economy. Leeds has been awarded approximately £20 million to deliver an enterprise programme targeted at tackling worklessness issues in its most deprived neighbourhoods. To date nearly 50 new businesses have started in the LEGI area, nearly 100 new jobs created and over 100 local residents found employment.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226803]

Mr. McFadden: When running recruitment campaigns, recruitment costs, including advertising costs are generally devolved to individual management units and there are no central records held of the breakdown of advertising costs. When advertising vacancies, the departments use the most appropriate advertising media be it national, regional, local, trade magazine or website, depending on the nature of the vacancy to be filled.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to extend the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 to include the time that support workers are obliged to spend sleeping at their place of work; and if he will make a statement. [227696]

Mr. McFadden: There are no current plans to change legislation in this area. We are, however, reviewing the guidance on sleepovers as part of work to reduce uncertainty about what constitutes compliance with the law.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by his Department and its predecessor has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [222049]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of turbulence in financial markets on the willingness of banks to provide loans to fuel-poor householders to improve their home energy efficiency rating. [226251]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Low income and vulnerable households are able to access discounted or free energy saving and heating measures as a result of Government policies. These include the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target regulations on energy suppliers (as a result of which free cavity wall and loft insulation are available to households in receipt of certain benefits and tax credits and those over 70), and publicly funded schemes such as the Warm Front scheme in England and the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme in Wales. The Government's Home Energy Saving Programme announced on 11 September set out a £1 billion package of new activity to help all households save energy and save money.

As stated at Budget 2007, based on consultation with major banks and building societies, the Government anticipates that the measures it has put in place and improved energy advice and information have the potential to create a market for "green" financial products designed to help householders invest in energy efficiency and microgeneration installations.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people in West Chelmsford constituency have *(a)* applied for a grant for energy efficient measures under the Warm Front scheme and *(b)* been awarded a grant for energy efficient measures under the scheme. [228034]

Joan Ruddock: Between 1 June 2005 and 30 September 2008, 1,273 households in West Chelmsford applied for a Warm Front Grant, 859 have qualified and of these 721 have received assistance. The remaining 138 households are awaiting the delivery of measures.

Prior to 2005 the scheme was delivered by a different scheme manager and the data retained by the present administrator are not sufficient to provide a response with the level of detail requested.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on grants under the Warm Front scheme in West Chelmsford constituency since its introduction. [228035]

Joan Ruddock: Between 1 June 2005 and 30 September 2008, the Warm Front Scheme delivered £955,714.14 of measures into the homes of some of the most vulnerable West Chelmsford residents.

Prior to 2005, the scheme was delivered by a different administrator. The data retained by the present scheme manager is not sufficient to provide a response with the level of detail requested.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to publicise the (i) Warm Front Scheme and (ii) Warm Deal Scheme; how much was spent by his Department and predecessor departments to publicise each scheme since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [227588]

Joan Ruddock: As fuel poverty is now a devolved issue, this answer refers specifically to Warm Front. The Warm Deal Scheme falls within the remit of the Scottish Government.

Warm Front advertising and promotion is not an expense drawn from the Warm Front budget. It is a contractual requirement placed on Eaga, as the main contractor, to generate sufficient interest in the scheme to fulfil the budget.

(a) In promoting the Scheme, Eaga undertakes several streams of activity targeted at reaching those eligible or potentially eligible for assistance. Activities include attendance at local community events, partnerships with both the Department of Health and the Department of Work and Pensions, affinity arrangements with local voluntary and charitable groups and direct mailing activities with local authorities.

(b) Eaga will continue to publicise Warm Front so that it is visible and available to those in need, and will ensure that the scheme assists as many households as possible by fully utilising its budget.

The Government's Act on CO_2 helpline (0800 512012) directs people to advice from the Energy Savings Trust which can include information about Warm Front.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research he has recently *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of the (i) Warm Front Scheme and (ii) Warm Deal Scheme in reducing fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [227589]

Joan Ruddock: As fuel poverty is now a devolved issue, this response refers only to Warm Front. The Warm Deal Scheme falls within the remit of the Scottish Government.

DECC's independent quality assessors, White Young and Green, carry out bi-annual audits of the scheme as well as further ad hoc reports on various subjects requested by the Department.

Further to this, the National Audit Office is performing a value for money audit of the scheme which they anticipate publishing in December of this year.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since its creation. [228027]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1413W.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to reduce congestion on motorways and two-lane roads caused by slow-overtaking heavy goods vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [227802]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The Highways Agency is undertaking a series of trials on the Strategic Road Network, restricting HGVs over 7.5 tonnes from using any lane other than the nearside lane for short stretches of road. Trial areas include the M42 Junction 10 to 11 and two sections of the A1 (M) Southbound from junctions 61 and 63. After a successful 18-month trial on the A14 the restriction has been made permanent, and the process of making the order permanent on the M42 is in progress.

In addition, the Highways Agency has constructed new crawler lanes at four locations on the motorway network, one on the M27 and three on the M5 in the south-west area. These sites were identified as places where congestion has been caused by the slow movement of HGVs.

Railway Network: Electrification

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of the rail network was electrified in *(a)* 1978, *(b)* 1988, *(c)* 1998 and *(d)* 2008; what plans exist to electrify further sections; and on which of these sections electrification has commenced. [228028]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The following table provides the information requested:

	Percentage of total route kilometres open to passenger traffic that are electrified
1978	26
1988-89	31
1998-99	34
2006-07[1]	37

[1] Latest year for which figures are available. *Source:* Transport Statistics Great Britain 2007.

The Department for Transport is working closely with the rail industry to examine the case for extending the electrified network.

Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the net change in the number of train carriages on the rail network has been since 1 May 1997, allowing for the removal of Mk 1 trains and other time-expired vehicles, in *(a)* absolute and *(b)* percentage terms; and what the change in passenger numbers has been over the same period. [226565]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the detailed information.

In May 1995 the number of vehicles on lease was 10,401 and, as of today, the number on lease on the Rail Network is around 11,150, an increase of around 7.2 per cent. It should also be noted that a further 1,300 vehicles will be delivered as part of the High Level Output Specification (HLOS), of which 423 have already been ordered. In 1997-98 there were 846 million passenger journeys and by 2007-08 this had risen to 1,232 million.

Although the numbers may seem disproportionate in percentage terms it should be noted that off peak traffic and non-London traffic has grown substantially faster than London peak traffic; hence, a large proportion of the extra journeys are being made on what were previously under utilised trains.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has a comparator to assess the relative value for money of private and public operation of railway passenger services. [227147]

Paul Clark: The Government's policy is that rail passenger services are provided by the private sector through competition to operate publicly-specified franchises. There are no public operations which could provide the yardstick for a comparator.

Railways: Contracts

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which train operators have requested a time extension for payments of the premia due under their franchise agreements in the last 12 months. [227127]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* No operators have requested a time extension for payments of premia due in the last 12 months.

Railways: Fares

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to ensure the implementation of fair and competitive pricing structures by train operating companies. [225701]

Paul Clark: Train operators have been encouraged to implement the simplified fares structure set out in the 2007 White Paper, reducing the number of principal fare types to three types—Anytime, Off-peak and Advance, with standard terms and conditions for each category.

Train Operating Companies continue to set fares, where regulated, within the Policy of limiting overall increases to RPI + 1 per cent., in all but two cases. The Southeastern franchise, and the West Yorkshire part of the Northern franchise, are subject to an overall regulatory cap of RPI + 3 per cent. to reflect investment by the franchisees.

Unregulated fares are set commercially and are a matter for each Train Operating Company.

Railways: Infrastructure

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what European Union law governs whether train and station operations should be separated from rail infrastructure maintenance and renewals. [227148]

Paul Clark: Directive 91/440/EEC requires separation of accounting between infrastructure management business and the provision of transport services, and prohibits the transfer of public funds between these functions. It allows member states to achieve this through the organisation of distinct divisions within a single entity or by requiring the infrastructure to be managed by a separate entity.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has made an assessment of the value for money of *(a)* integrating rail infrastructure and operations in the public sector and *(b)* separating train and station operations from rail infrastructure maintenance and renewals. [227149]

Paul Clark: No such formal assessment has been made. It is generally accepted that the structures put in place at privatisation were flawed. The 2004 Rail White Paper and 2005 Railways Act set out a new streamlined structure, specified by the Government and delivered by the private sector, under which rail investment is based on affordability and value for money as determined by the independent Office of Rail Regulation.

This structure provides coherent and effective management and delivers safe, reliable railways that work efficiently. The new arrangements provide much-needed stability for the industry as a whole.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the value for money of operating rail passenger services in the public sector after each passenger franchise expires. [227150]

Paul Clark: The Government's policy is that rail services are provided by the private sector to a specification developed in the public sector; therefore, no formal assessment has been made of the value for money of operating rail passenger services in the public sector.

Railways: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on railways: Milton Keynes, how many more southbound Virgin trains will call at Milton Keynes during *(a)* peak and *(b)* off-peak times once the platform upgrade is complete than did so before the work commenced. [228450]

Paul Clark: On weekdays between 0600 and 0900, the number of southbound Virgin trains calling at Milton Keynes Central will increase from four to seven trains once the upgrade is completed. In off-peak periods, the number will increase from two to three per hour.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on railways: Milton Keynes, what the aggregate number of Virgin trains stopping per day at Milton Keynes will be once the platform upgrade is completed and a new timetable introduced; and what change this will represent from the previous aggregate number. [228451]

Paul Clark: The number of trains, operated by Virgin Trains and stopping at Milton Keynes Central station, once the enlargement work is completed, is likely to be 110 on a normal weekday. This will represent a 31 per cent. increase from today's number of 84 services operated by Virgin Trains and stopping at Milton Keynes.

Railways: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of hours of delays there will be on the railway in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2025. [226696]

Paul Clark: The High Level Output Specification, published in July 2007, required an improvement in the Public Performance Measure (PPM) to an average of 92.6 per cent. by the end of 2013-14, with associated reductions in significant lateness and cancellations. Delay hours are reported periodically by Network Rail, but are not separately estimated by the Department for Transport.

Roads: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Lancashire county council on improving safety on *(a)* the A59 and *(b)* other roads in the council's area. [228538]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has not held formal meetings with Lancashire county council specifically about the A59. The A59 is a non-trunk principal road. The county council is primarily responsible for safety on the road, and other similar roads, within its administrative area.

Departmental officials have talked with Lancashire county council officials about work supported by a road safety partnership grant not specific to the A59, about major (costing more than £5 million each) road projects and about local transport planning and delivery more generally.

Speed Limits

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many 20 mph speed limit zones have been introduced in each region in *(a)* each of the last eight years and *(b)* 2008; [227069]

(2) how many 20 mph speed limit zones have been introduced near schools in each region in *(a)* each of the last eight years and *(b)* 2008. [227070]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held by the Department. Local traffic authorities are responsible for setting local speed limits and have powers to introduce 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones if they believe it appropriate to do so. They are not required to inform the Department when they change a speed limit.

The Department has recently commissioned a new research project on local road safety policy and practice. Some of the information gathered from local authorities as part of this project includes details about the implementation of 20 mph zones. The project will take three years with an interim report due in March 2009.

Vehicle Number Plates

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he proposes to amend the Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Mark) Regulations 2001 so as to permit the display of the Union Flag and the national flags of Wales, England and Scotland. [224689]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Regulations have not yet been amended and the matter is currently under review.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was raised from the modulation element of the single farm payment in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [224939]

Jane Kennedy: For the financial years, 1 April to 31 March, 2006-07 and 2007-08 the modulation deducted from the single payment scheme payments are £136 million and £350 million respectively.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* highest, *(c)* median and *(d)* mean value was of claims under the 2007 Single Payment Scheme. [227308]

Jane Kennedy: The lowest, highest, median and mean values of the 2007 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) payments are:

	Value (£)
Lowest	0.01
Highest	2,191,054.026
Median	4,593.99
Mean	13,920.94

The lowest value is a result of a non compliance penalty.

These figures are subject to change as RPA continue to make 2007 SPS payments.

Agriculture: Temporary Employment

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many work permits were allocated under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme in each of the last five years. [227298]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Border Agency has a Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) that enables the provision of short term, low skilled workers to be employed in the agricultural industry. The permit to work that is issued to SAWS participants is known as a work card.

Work cards allocated to SAWS operators by UKBA by year are:

	Number
2004	20,557
2005	16,248
2006	16,244
2007	16,250
2008	16,250

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Animals: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many livestock disease reactors were identified through pre-movement testing in each year such testing has been in operation. [227316]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is as follows.

TB contribution

The numbers of bovine tuberculosis (TB) reactor cattle identified in England each year since TB pre-movement testing became mandatory in March 2006, are given in the following table:

Number of TB reactors identified in England by pre-movement testing

	Number
2008 (1 January-31 July 2008)	184
2007 (1 January-31 December 2007)	372
2006 (27 March-31 December 2006)	278

Source:
Animal Health database (10 September 2008)

Pre-movement testing applied to cattle over 15 months old from 27 March 2006 and was extended to cattle over 42 days old from 1 March 2007.

Cumulative TB pre-movement statistics are updated monthly and are published on the DEFRA website. The published figures are an underestimate of the impact of the policy and show the minimum benefits. The number of reactors identified does not take into account the benefits of herd owners utilising Government paid TB surveillance tests as pre-movement tests or the number of inconclusive reactors identified by pre-movement testing which have ended up as reactors when retested.

Bees: Diseases

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the prevalence of deformed wing virus in the bee population in England; and what assessment he has made of the potential impact of this virus on bee productivity. [227329]

Jane Kennedy: Deformed Wing Virus (DWV) is a virus associated with varroa, a parasitic mite infesting bees. Varroa is widespread in the UK and while it cannot be completely eradicated, beekeepers can keep productive bees despite its presence, providing they operate effective controls. Controlling the varroa mite vector by means of a careful programme of integrated pest management is the most effective way of controlling virus infections. DEFRA has published detailed advice for beekeepers on this.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what strains of *(a)* avian influenza and *(b)* bluetongue were confirmed in the UK in each of the last three years; where such cases occurred; and how many animals were slaughtered in each case, broken down by region. [227326]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows:

(a) Avian Influenza

	Type of Avian Influenza/location	*Animals culled*
May 2006	Low pathogenic H7N3 in chickens in Dereham, Norfolk	49,386
February 2007	H5N1 (highly pathogenic) in turkeys at Bernard Matthews plant in Suffolk	156,786
May/June 2007	Low pathogenic H7N2 in Wales and Merseyside	67
November 2007	H5N1 (highly pathogenic) on two premises near Diss, Norfolk	90,650
January/February 2008	H5N1 (highly pathogenic) confirmed in 11 wild birds in the Chesil Beach area in Dorset	[1]0
June 2008	H7N7 (highly pathogenic) avian influenza confirmed on a premises near Banbury in Oxfordshire	24,895

[1] Cases were in wild not domestic birds.

(b) Bluetongue

Bluetongue virus serotype 8 (BTV-8) is the only strain of Bluetongue virus to have been detected in the UK to date. The first case was detected on 22 September 2007.

As at 16 October 2008, a total of 147 cases of BTV-8 had been detected. These are shown in the following table, by UK region, for the last three years:

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
England	—	66	[1]80
Northern Ireland	—	—	—
Scotland	—	—	—
Wales	—	—	[2]1

[1] No circulating Bluetongue disease has been found in the UK in 2008. The 80 cases confirmed this year in England comprise 73 that involve animals infected in 2007 but confirmed as infected in 2008, and seven that were detected through post-import tests on livestock imported from abroad.

[2] This case was detected as a result of post-import testing.

A total of six infected animals were culled in England in 2007 prior to 28 September 2007.

On 28 September 2007, it was confirmed that BTV-8 was circulating in the local midge population in the affected area of East Anglia. Since Bluetongue is spread by midges, the culling of animals infected by Bluetongue would no longer have been an effective measure to control disease spread, and in line with the Bluetongue Control Strategy, the decision was taken not to slaughter further infected animals.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration his Department has given to the use of contra bait or other measures to control breeding in the management of badger populations infected with tuberculosis. [227774]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is funding proof-of-concept research into fertility control for managing animal populations. As part of this research, we are evaluating this approach specifically for the management of urban badger populations. The research is focused on population control, not disease control. Lowering population numbers in itself does not necessarily mean that disease transmission risks are lowered.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects a bovine tuberculosis vaccine to be available for *(a)* badgers and *(b)* cattle. [227319]

Jane Kennedy: Badger vaccines are likely to be available sooner than cattle vaccines. The earliest projected date for the widespread use of Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) oral badger vaccine is 2014. Injectable BCG badger vaccines may be available by 2010.

The earliest projected date for the widespread use of a BCG cattle vaccine with a differential diagnostic test (DIVA) is mid to late-2015.

Climate Change: Diseases

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the increase in mean surface temperatures on the potential for *(a)* malaria, *(b)* equine fever, *(c)* dengue fever, *(d)* lyme disease, *(e)* African Horse Sickness, *(f)* Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus, *(g)* Rift Valley fever and *(h)* other vector borne diseases to spread to the UK; and what steps he has taken towards securing vaccines for these diseases. [227327]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has an ongoing programme of international disease surveillance that monitors disease outbreaks. Risk assessments for African Horse Sickness and Rift Valley Fever have been published on the DEFRA Website. Equine fever could refer to a number of diseases of the horse, so we are unable to say whether we have performed a risk assessment for it.

DEFRA has not conducted specific assessments of the potential increase of the risk of these diseases as a result of an increase in mean surface temperatures. Surface temperatures are only one factor affecting the potential spread of disease and/or vectors. A number of natural and human-related factors, such as trade, animal movements and livestock husbandry practices may have a more significant role in disease spread in the short-term. Some research is under way to investigate potential implications of climate change for animal diseases.

No steps have been taken to secure vaccines against these diseases. Vaccines are often specific for particular types and strains, and decisions on vaccine procurement would need to be taken on the basis of risk assessments and our agreed control strategy for each disease.

Malaria, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus, Dengue fever and Lyme disease are human health issues and therefore queries should be addressed to the Department of Health.

Dairy Farming

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of dairy farmers in each of the last 10 years. [228535]

Jane Kennedy: The number of holdings and associated farmers (full and part-time) in England where dairy is the predominant activity are shown as follows. Farmers includes partners, directors and spouses (if working on the holding).

	Dairy type holdings	*Farmers, partners, directors and spouses*
2007	10,649	21,082
2006	12,628	25,706
2005	12,918	26,168
2004	13,264	28,057
2003	13,770	28,918
2002	14,537	30,425
2001	14,293	30,178
2000	15,219	31,418
1999	16,313	33,216
1998	17,014	34,405

Notes:

1. The 2007 dairy farm type was calculated using data taken from the cattle tracing system and is therefore not directly comparable to previous year's results. Prior to 2007, the farm type was based on June survey data. As the annual June survey is based on a sample, estimates have been made for holdings not surveyed.
2. Figures prior to 2001 are not directly comparable with later results as they cover main (commercial) holdings only and also because of a register improvement exercise in 2001 which impacted on the labour figures.

Source:

June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the implications of the Local Government Ombudsman ruling 06/C/10554, in relation to the waste policies of local authorities which seek to restrict the number of household bins which are collected. [224617]

Jane Kennedy: The Ombudsman found against this particular local authority on the basis that it had made insufficient effort to assess whether requiring the householder to have only one bin for the size of the household, was reasonable.

The ruling does not change the fact that local authorities can, under section 46 of the Environment Protection Act 1990, restrict the number of waste receptacles per household. However, section 46 requires the arrangements for receptacles to be reasonable and it is the authority's failure to comply with that requirement that led to the Ombudsman's investigation and subsequent ruling.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the consultation on restructuring of inland drainage boards. [224593]

Jane Kennedy: The Inland Drainage Board Sub Catchment review set a direction of travel following an independent report produced in 2006. The independent report outlined the strengths and weaknesses of the current performance of internal drainage boards and made recommendations for future improvements.

There has not been formal consultation on this, but representations have nevertheless been received from interested organisations and internal drainage boards, making points on the detail of the report as well as seeking guidance on the review itself.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government will *(a)* respond to and *(b)* set out its five proposals for action in respect of the consultation on options for allocation of responsibility for the ownership and long-term maintenance of drainage systems; and if he will make a statement. [224612]

Jane Kennedy: The Government will not be providing a separate response for the consultation and has indicated in the Summary of Responses to the consultation that the next steps will be announced in the response to the Pitt Review "Lessons learned from the 2007 floods".

The response to the Pitt Review is due in November.

Floods: Coastal Areas

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how often the Environment Agency updates its maps of river and coastal flood risks. [226700]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency is continually updating its Flood Map, which shows areas that could be affected by flooding from rivers or the sea. Flood Maps, published on the Environment Agency's website, are sent to local authorities for planning and Civil Contingencies Act purposes. These show areas at risk of flooding and are updated and published on a quarterly basis.

Floods: Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of homes at risk of *(a)* coastal flooding and *(b)* inland flooding, broken down by region. [226463]

Jane Kennedy: The latest national flood risk assessment (NaFRA) was carried out during 2006. The NaFRA data were published in March 2007.

A brief summary of appendix L of the NaFRA 2006 report follows and indicates the number or properties (both homes and businesses) at risk from tidal and fluvial flooding.

Environment Agency water management region	*Number of properties at risk from tidal flooding*	*Number of properties at risk from fluvial flooding*	*Number of properties at risk from both tidal and fluvial*
Anglian	183,652	119,034	14,936
Midlands	25,358	196,002	1,092
North-east	138,385	146,704	10,824
North-west	65,614	47,742	3,220
South-west	72,999	89,612	6,394
Southern	124,769	133,797	11,095
Thames	418,295	281,327	36,611

Incineration: Waste Management

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage alternatives to incineration for the management of non-recyclable waste. [225010]

Jane Kennedy: It is local authorities, not DEFRA, who are responsible for deciding how waste is managed as part of their local waste management strategies. Any plans for facilities that converted waste to energy should emerge out of local waste strategies, so that all options for reuse, recycling and composting can be explored before landfill.

Recovering energy from waste offers a considerable climate change benefit compared to the alternative landfill. This is primarily through avoided landfill methane emissions, with the energy recovered from the biodegradable part of that waste not only displacing conventional power generation based on oil, coal or natural gas, but also counting towards our renewable energy targets.

Milk: Imports

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much milk was imported in each of the last 10 years; and from which countries such milk was sourced. [227607]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* The following table shows the volume of liquid milk imported into the UK from 1997 to 2007, by country of dispatch, as recorded in the Official Trade Statistics.

UK imports of liquid milk, 1997 to 2007, by country of dispatch

Million litres

Country	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Irish Republic	81	88	60	60	55	26	19	24	8	19	19
Germany	24	27	17	20	11	6	4	8	15	20	18
France	20	20	13	9	10	10	9	10	11	15	14
Denmark	11	40	30	25	9	1	0	1	1	0	0
Belgium-Luxembourg	14	11	7	7	4	2	4	11	9	24	24
Netherlands	1	0	4	0	1	2	1	0	3	7	13
Austria	0	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	0	0

UK imports of liquid milk, 1997 to 2007, by country of dispatch

Million litres

Country	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Other countries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All countries	150	188	134	122	90	48	37	55	47	84	88

Source:
HM Revenue and Customs.
Data prepared by Trade Statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis Division, DEFRA.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much milk was produced in England in each of the last 10 years. [227608]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 16 October 2008]*: The volume of milk produced in England is shown in the following table.

Production of milk in England

	Million litres
1998	9,843
1999	10,645
2000	9,951
2001	9,518
2002	9,590
2003	9,622
2004	9,291
2005	9,128
2006	9,071
2007	8,791

Source:
DEFRA.

Oil: Waste Management

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the UK's obligations are on encouraging the recovery and re-use of waste under the waste framework directive; what assessment he has made of the degree to which the duty regime applicable to waste derived fuel oil from 1 November 2008 contributes towards this objective; and what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this subject. [226447]

Jane Kennedy: The waste oil directive requires member states to ensure the collection and correct management of waste oil and to take measures to give priority to the regeneration of waste oil above combustion. As a specific measure applying to waste oil, the waste oil directive takes precedence over the waste framework directive.

It is the view of the Government that the duty regime applicable to waste derived fuel oil from 1 November 2008 should have no adverse effects on the volume of waste oil collected, as correct management of hazardous waste is a legal requirement. Waste oil has a value and there will continue to be a demand for waste-derived fuel. A higher duty rate for waste-derived fuel could also encourage the provision of regeneration of waste oil in preference to combustion.

I have not held discussions on this issue with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but officials in my Department are in regular contact with officials in HM Revenue and Customs on this issue.

Pitt Review

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish a plan and timetable for implementing the findings of Sir Michael Pitt's review of flooding. [226701]

Jane Kennedy: The Government will be publishing a full response to Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations shortly.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS, on flood and coastal erosion risk management (budget allocations and outcomes targets), what plans he has to make funding allocations beyond those indicated in the statement to enable the implementation of Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations on flooding. [226702]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 301. Sir Michael Pitt's review included a recommendation that

> "The Government should commit to a strategic long-term approach to its investment in flood risk management, planning up to 25 years ahead".

The Government will be publishing their response to all of Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations shortly.

Rural Payments Agency: Personal Records

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many instances of the loss of personal documents have been recorded by the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last five years. [225106]

Jane Kennedy: During the last five years the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has had one formally recorded incident of the loss of personal information which was subsequently recovered shortly after being reported missing. Informal reporting of lost and recovered personal information has occurred during the five year period and RPA's system for recording such occurrences has been strengthened with further improvements in train.

Sewers

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish a further consultation on the transfer of private sewers and lateral drains connected to the public network to water and sewage companies; what the future timetable of this work is; and if he will make a statement. [227341]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1942W, by my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas).

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the Government's response to his Department's consultation on the transfer of private sewers to sewerage undertakers; and if he will make a statement. [227943]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas) on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1942W.

Supermarkets: Waste Disposal

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was produced by supermarkets in each of the last three years; and how much of this was *(a)* recyclable and *(b)* recycled. [227322]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not hold statistics relating to the waste produced specifically by supermarkets. However, in July 2008, the Food and Drink Federation (FDF) and DEFRA published the results of a survey of food and packaging waste arising across FDF member companies during 2006. The results show that of the 835,000 tonnes of food and packaging waste produced at 236 FDF member production sites in 2006, 686,000 tonnes were recycled or recovered in some way. Overall, only 138,000 tonnes were sent to landfill.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* internationally in implementing the recommendations arising from the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development regarding sustainable consumption. [228492]

Jane Kennedy: At the international level responsibility principally lies with the 'Marrakech Process' and the seven international task forces which it has so far fostered. Among the themes covered by the task forces are sustainable lifestyles, education for sustainable development and sustainable tourism. The task forces focus on practical activities that help with the shift to more sustainable patterns of consumption at regional and local levels. A first draft of a 10-year framework programme has recently been produced and can be found on the Marrakech Process website.

Within England, DEFRA is implementing a programme on sustainable consumption and production. The main actions and objectives are described in DEFRA's progress report on sustainable products and materials (published in July 2008 and available on the DEFRA website). As far as sustainable consumption is concerned, we have published a framework for pro-environmental behaviours which sets out a social marketing style approach to helping people move to more sustainable living. This includes core principles and approaches, headline behaviour goals, consumer insight, a segmentation model and an assessment of the implications for policy. The framework has been used, for example, to inform the development of the Government's Act on CO_2 campaign.

Warm Front Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many people in North Yorkshire received Warm Front grants in each of the last five years; [223900]

(2) how many people in Yorkshire and the Humber received Warm Front grants in each of the last five years. [223901]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The following below shows the number of households assisted under Warm Front 2 since it started in June 2005 in the Yorkshire and Humber and North Yorkshire areas.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
Yorkshire and Humber	14,210	36,033	39,488	12,179
North Yorkshire				
Craven	149	308	273	167
Hambleton	160	359	391	193
Harrogate	302	591	566	189
Richmondshire	83	263	230	77
Ryedale	101	308	252	66
Scarborough	272	747	1343	380
Selby	127	410	384	172
York	382	982	1042	273
	1,576	3,968	4,481	1,517

[1] To 16 September 2008

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated yearly effect on the *(a)* tax bill and *(b)* other expenditure of a family in the lowest income quintile is under his Department's impact assessment of new charges for the collection of household waste. [225558]

Jane Kennedy: No such quantitative assessment has been made by DEFRA.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on whether care homes should be subject to the new charges for the collection of household waste. [225645]

Jane Kennedy: This is a matter for the relevant local authority to decide.

Waste Management: Public Participation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the responses to the consultation on joint waste authorities' regulations and guidance. [225644]

Jane Kennedy: Responses to the consultation are publicly available in DEFRA's library.

Waterwise: Finance

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department requires the water industry to provide funding to Waterwise; and if he will make a statement. [226553]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not require the water industry to provide funding to Waterwise.

JUSTICE

Church of England: Public Appointments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time has been to fill clergy vacancies in Lord Chancellor-appointed livings in each of the last five years. [227649]

Mr. Wills: This information is not held in this form and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many vacancies there are for clergy in the livings to which the Lord Chancellor makes the appointment. [227650]

Mr. Wills: On 15 October, there were 13 vacancies in livings to which the Lord Chancellor makes the appointment. This includes those livings where the patronage is shared and it is the Lord Chancellor's turn to make the presentation.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there are plans to review the procedures for clergy appointments by his Department. [227651]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice has no plans to review the procedures for clergy appointments.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female clergy have been appointed by his Department in each of the last five years. [227652]

Mr. Wills: The figures requested are as follows:

	Female	*Male*
2004	1	11
2005	1	5
2006	3	5
2007	1	8
2008 (to date)	1	3

In the same period, the Lord Chancellor has also appointed one female Canon Residentiary in 2006, and four male Canon Residentiaries, one in each of 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Community Orders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community orders were issued in each month since April 2005; and how many times each of the 12 requirements was used. [227002]

Mr. Hanson: Table 1 shows the number of community orders supervised by the Probation Service in England and Wales which commenced between April 2005 and March 2008. Table 2 shows the monthly commencement figures in England and Wales for each of the 12 requirements associated with the community order.

The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1: Number of community orders commencing in England and Wales, by month, April 2005 to March 2008

	Number
April 2005	931
May 2005	3,244
June 2005	5,348
July 2005	6,072
August 2005	6,954
September 2005	7,824
October 2005	8,602
November 2005	9,812
December 2005	7,790
January 2006	10,108
February 2006	10,212
March 2006	11,184
April 2006	9,140
May 2006	10,654
June 2006	11,033
July 2006	10,133
August 2006	10,483
September 2006	10,494
October 2006	11,005
November 2006	10,961
December 2006	8,238
January 2007	11,067
February 2007	10,782
March 2007	11,582
April 2007	9,951
May 2007	11,337
June 2007	11,444
July 2007	11,705
August 2007	11,374
September 2007	10,268
October 2007	12,308
November 2007	11,756
December 2007	8,228
January 2008	11,933
February 2008	11,287
March 2008	10,136

Table 2: Number of requirements given with a community order which commenced in England and Wales, by month and type of requirement. April 2005 to March 2008

Community Order	*Supervision*	*Unpaid work*	*Accredited programme*	*Drug treatment*	*Curfew*	*Specified activity*
April 2005	438	566	217	60	38	20
May 2005	1,866	1,793	978	276	138	139
June 2005	3,227	2,859	1,674	533	253	252
July 2005	3,678	3,260	1,911	598	302	294
August 2005	4,267	3,681	2,134	692	389	348
September 2005	4,843	4,202	2,440	734	461	348
October 2005	5,405	4,390	2,685	960	517	405
November 2005	6,149	5,151	3,027	1,112	582	468
December 2005	4,864	4,045	2,371	887	528	364
January 2006	6,229	5,378	2,991	990	691	545
February 2006	6,362	5,463	3,176	1,004	753	605
March 2006	7,014	5,972	3,347	1,112	824	605
April 2006	5,641	4,864	2,515	914	715	500
May 2006	6,500	5,836	2,926	1,036	751	644
June 2006	6,841	5,990	3,122	1,061	822	661
July 2006	6,295	5,407	2,828	962	785	652
August 2006	6,398	5,732	2,780	1,010	853	646
September 2006	6,371	5,763	2,707	949	805	707
October 2006	6,757	5,966	2,873	1,022	919	751
November 2006	6,709	6,047	2,924	1,028	971	768
December 2006	5,101	4,504	2,092	805	723	621
January 2007	6,587	6,244	2,749	1,015	996	773
February 2007	6,487	5,975	2,716	982	997	797
March 2007	6,862	6,738	2,750	1,099	1,016	856
April 2007	5,911	5,711	2,212	960	882	646
May 2007	6,734	6,583	2,536	1,017	1,035	765
June 2007	6,817	6,573	2,679	1,059	1,034	681
July 2007	6,964	6,649	2,665	1,056	1,135	755
August 2007	6,829	6,345	2,619	1,078	1,061	782
September 2007	6,067	5,799	2,241	900	996	660
October 2007	7,164	7,074	2,658	1,093	1,249	730
November 2007	6,862	6,612	2,542	1,077	1,341	782
December 2007	4,817	4,477	1,775	810	875	539
January 2008	6,679	6,747	2,516	1,045	1,309	774
February 2008	6,453	6,212	2,317	1,076	1,270	774
March 2008	5,828	5,586	2,040	987	1,168	674
Total	208,016	190,194	88,733	32,999	29,184	21,331

Community order	*Alcohol treatment*	*Residential*	*Mental health*	*Exclusion*	*Prohibited activity*	*Attendance centre*
April 2005	19	1	0	2	3	0
May 2005	90	4	6	15	3	4
June 2005	155	17	17	23	5	12
July 2005	177	29	25	21	10	9
August 2005	184	36	34	17	15	12
September 2005	181	46	34	38	25	15
October 2005	184	43	43	29	19	13
November 2005	194	47	54	28	28	18
December 2005	172	45	49	22	22	11
January 2006	189	51	53	25	31	17
February 2006	200	64	60	44	22	17
March 2006	208	64	64	37	40	25
April 2006	185	45	58	34	27	17
May 2006	216	60	43	48	35	29
June 2006	222	62	65	41	48	39
July 2006	212	58	61	41	49	29
August 2006	229	69	76	42	43	28
September 2006	204	76	76	43	47	18
October 2006	227	60	70	44	50	29

Community order	*Alcohol treatment*	*Residential*	*Mental health*	*Exclusion*	*Prohibited activity*	*Attendance centre*
November 2006	202	74	69	54	39	20
December 2006	144	78	55	57	52	19
January 2007	200	78	62	61	51	33
February 2007	200	80	44	82	67	34
March 2007	258	66	57	68	67	33
April 2007	215	75	61	55	56	31
May 2007	268	81	54	58	83	31
June 2007	270	95	68	60	63	38
July 2007	310	95	53	86	75	47
August 2007	324	70	58	88	70	40
September 2007	262	75	39	56	61	49
October 2007	339	86	55	83	95	37
November 2007	347	70	59	79	85	38
December 2007	274	61	42	69	74	20
January 2008	331	81	56	80	84	38
February 2008	330	61	68	108	88	45
March 2008	299	75	53	69	78	42
Total	8,021	2,178	1,841	1,807	1,710	937

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department and its predecessors and their agencies were *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in each of the last 10 years. [227078]

Mr. Wills: Information in a validated and comparable form is available only for dismissals for the last two years. Figures for these years for dismissals are as follows:

	Dismissals
2006-07	112
2007-08	101

To obtain the other information in the format requested would incur disproportionate costs as all personal files of current and ex-employees would have to be checked to collate this information for the past 10 years.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221298]

Mr. Wills: The 24 hour, seven days a week operational nature of the Ministry's work in various sectors of the justice service necessitates a large number of our staff to regularly provide out of hours work. This flexible additional work is required in order to better protect the public and meet the needs of a modern service.

In line with good practice guidelines overtime is paid only with prior management authority to carry out specific work, which cannot be done within normal working hours. The majority of overtime paid in the Ministry of Justice relates to work done in Her Majesty's Prison Service. Within Her Majesty's Court Service examples of such work include provision of out of hours legal advice to judges on issues such as Emergency Protection Orders or Extradition matters, or the provision of Saturday court sittings. The Ministry of Justice is also responsible for overtime payments made to probation staff in the National Offender Management Service.

The following table shows the overtime payments to staff within the Ministry of Justice broken down by month from July 2007 to August 2008.

Total overtime costs

Area of Ministry of Justice	£
July 2007	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	[1]—
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	31,876.28
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	906,672.93
Total overtime costs	938,549.21
August 2007	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	[1]—
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	16,104.67
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	1,324,897.48
Total overtime costs	1,[illegible]41,002.15
September 2007	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	413,339.04
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	19,722.17
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	949,660.93
Total overtime costs	1,382,722.14
October 2007	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	531,030.82
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	28,146.40
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	826,973.12
Total overtime costs	1,386,150.34

Total overtime costs

Area of Ministry of Justice	£
November 2007	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	700,991.79
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	17,890.91
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	1,226,404.48
Total overtime costs	1,945,287.18
December 2007	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	650,574.97
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	25,758.91
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	702,118.36
Total overtime costs	1,378,452.24
January 2008	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	643,558.45
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	19,050.76
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	962,208.19
Total overtime costs	1,624,817.40
February 2008	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	834,554.36
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	27,367.16
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	891,539.35
Total overtime costs	1,753,460.87
March 2008	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	782,040.82
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	26,682.83
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	912,752.52
Total overtime costs	1,721,476.17
April 2008	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	1,025,311.68
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	47,924.58
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	969,909.44
Total overtime costs	2,043,145.70
May 2008	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	707,760.34
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	26,259.54
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	971,016.57
Total overtime costs	1,705,036.45
June 2008	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	694,089.43
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	26,186.03
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	959,315.12
Total overtime costs	1,679,590.58
July 2008	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	765,693.44
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	n/a
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	n/a
Total overtime costs	765,693.44
August 2008	
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices	649,501.42
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform	n/a
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	n/a
Total Overtime Costs	649,501.42

[1] The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226424]

Mr. Wills: Bonus payments in the Ministry of Justice may be either 'Year-end' bonuses, paid to high performing staff to reflect their individual contribution during the previous performance year or 'In year' bonuses may be paid to staff to recognise exceptional contribution during the performance year. During the financial year 2007-08 2,535 end of year bonuses and 5,327 in year bonuses were paid.

The cost of bonus payments made during the financial year 2007-08 was £4,559,454. This includes Employer's National Insurance contributions at 9 per cent. Bonus payments are non pensionable and therefore are not subject to Employer's Pension Contributions.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227480]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not held any citizens' juries since 1 July 2007.

Driving Offences

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted for driving without insurance in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* each region of England in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) 2008. [227073]

Maria Eagle: Available information on magistrates courts proceedings for the offence of 'use of a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks' from 1997 to end 2006 (latest available) is contained in the following table. Data for 2007 will be available later this year; while 2008 data will be available later in 2009.

From 1 June 2003, the offence of 'use of a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence. The table does not include fixed penalty notices issued and paid where there is no further action for the offence but may include cases where fixed penalty notices were issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for 'using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks'[1], by GOR, 1997 to 2006

Number of offences

Government office region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[2]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Wales	26,864	27,969	26,976	26,064	24,892	28,371	30,077	27,686	22,696	22,363
North East	20,387	20,302	23,526	23,458	22,687	24,143	24,328	23,582	20,793	17,645
North West	70,946	68,125	69,331	71,427	71,405	73,557	82,086	73,991	66,415	56,686
Yorkshire and the Humber	43,542	43,125	46,436	48,148	50,516	46,536	49,994	53,055	46,618	40,303
East Midlands	32,937	33,193	35,047	31,778	29,871	29,226	36,361	38,808	30,618	25,359
West Midlands	49,456	51,114	46,403	48,746	45,028	50,955	55,114	58,544	52,623	46,880
East	27,095	27,875	26,278	27,553	29,550	32,351	35,177	33,051	31,666	30,464
London	44,954	38,191	33,806	31,387	30,858	38,838	45,663	50,618	48,722	47,707
South East	44,865	42,573	43,098	44,145	43,584	45,780	45,388	41,641	36,732	34,259
South West	36,087	37,607	36,518	38,953	36,907	40,641	43,079	40,843	35,880	31,815

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.143(2).

[2] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers under the age of 25 years were prosecuted for driving using a mobile phone in each region of England and Wales in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* 2008 to date. [227142]

Maria Eagle: Available information on prosecutions in the period 1 December 2003 to end 2006 (latest available) taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by my Department, are provided in the following table. 2007 data should be available later this year; 2008 data will be available late in 2009.

The vast majority of "use of hand held mobile phone while driving" offences are dealt with by the offer of a fixed penalty. The table does not include fixed penalty notices but does include cases where fixed penalty notices were issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Proceedings at magistrates courts[1] [2] for the offence of 'use of hand held mobile phone while driving'[2], by drivers under age 25, and by Government office regions, England and Wales, 2004, 2005, 2006

Number of offences

Government office region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	7	5	25
North West	28	51	72
Yorkshire and the Humber	10	30	37
East Midlands	7	24	19
West Midlands	11	15	20
East	16	19	45
London	52	115	103
South East	13	35	35
South West	11	16	23
Wales	4	13	14

[1] Includes cases where a fixed penalty notice was originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

[2] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3). Introduced 1 December 2003. In December 2003, there was one prosecution in the Bedfordshire police force area. The offender was aged over 25.

Note:

It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fines have been issued for drivers exceeding the speed limit in a 20 mph zone in the last eight years; and what the average such fine was in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* each region of England in (i) each of the last eight years and (ii) 2008. [227067]

Maria Eagle: While the data held by my Department include information on fines for speed limit offences, that information does not specify the particular limit breached nor the part of the country in which the offence occurred.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average fine was levied for driving an unsafe car which did not comply with MOT requirements in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* each region of England in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) 2008. [227075]

Maria Eagle: Driving an unsafe car which does not comply with M.O.T. requirements can result in the commission of a number of different offences.

Available information on average fines for different offences and offence groups is contained in my Department's Statistical Bulletin "Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales 2006" and its associated "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales 2006, Supplementary tables". The documents are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/motoringoffences.htm

This information is not however broken down by area.

Firearms: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted for possession of an illegal firearm in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police force area. [227526]

Mr. Straw: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for firearm possession offences in England and Wales, by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in November 2008.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possessing firearm, ammunition, or shotgun without a certificate or possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Found guilty									
Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	54	52	19	21	31	24	25	24	26	25
Bedfordshire	15	9	5	4	6	10	10	10	7	4
Cambridgeshire	16	23	17	12	2	8	14	8	6	15
Cheshire	18	8	11	9	7	8	8	23	13	18
City of London	1	4	1	1	2	4	2	5	1	1
Cleveland	15	15	9	10	7	8	15	12	13	9
Cumbria	7	13	4	12	8	3	4	10	10	5
Derbyshire	24	15	30	23	13	19	12	23	21	21
Devon and Cornwall	38	29	25	14	18	18	24	22	20	28
Dorset	8	8	9	8	8	11	13	9	11	8
Durham	8	12	10	16	9	8	14	18	28	17
Essex	46	51	29	32	19	32	23	36	28	34
Gloucestershire	19	16	7	11	14	10	11	11	8	7
Greater Manchester	85	122	76	76	69	61	72	126	122	107
Hampshire	47	35	27	22	15	32	29	22	42	28
Hertfordshire	18	14	11	17	11	10	9	22	24	26
Humberside	13	14	12	8	16	16	14	23	25	19
Kent	28	42	27	32	32	26	29	23	21	29
Lancashire	35	39	16	26	24	17	20	30	32	22
Leicestershire	30	35	23	37	32	18	26	20	28	21
Lincolnshire	14	21	13	21	17	14	7	9	10	8
Merseyside	37	43	26	19	24	26	34	62	75	67
Metropolitan Police	323	328	254	202	261	295	350	317	337	380
Norfolk	20	20	20	11	12	14	6	18	13	17
North Yorkshire	34	47	15	19	13	4	11	4	11	11
Northamptonshire	10	7	17	9	4	7	4	6	9	3
Northumbria	64	59	66	43	49	31	52	47	47	42
Nottinghamshire	22	35	19	23	20	19	39	27	29	39
South Yorkshire	34	39	42	30	16	33	27	35	40	48
Staffordshire	23	25	8	3	15	33	16	18	20	14
Suffolk	10	6	11	10	7	6	14	12	10	12
Surrey	7	7	4	9	13	13	11	11	4	8
Sussex	22	16	17	9	14	13	16	21	22	17
Thames Valley	52	46	37	19	18	27	31	28	25	24
Warwickshire	15	9	9	6	11	9	6	9	7	8
West Mercia	23	17	22	8	15	15	11	15	13	14
West Midlands	105	110	100	82	85	97	84	91	79	88
West Yorkshire	64	90	69	47	38	45	40	63	66	56
Wiltshire	3	10	7	13	9	6	5	8	14	13
Dyfed-Powys	23	20	11	13	11	10	17	10	7	1
Gwent	5	7	8	12	7	8	6	9	6	11
North Wales	22	16	13	11	3	7	7	10	7	11

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possessing firearm, ammunition, or shotgun without a certificate or possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Found guilty									
Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
South Wales	30	19	27	21	28	15	26	26	29	25
Total	1,487	1,553	1,183	1,031	1,033	1,090	1,194	1,333	1,366	1,361

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and magistrates courts data only have been excluded from the table.

[4] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:

Firearms Act 1968 (Group I) Sec l(l), as amended by Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157, Sch.8 part III. Possessing etc. firearm or ammunition without firearm certificate.

Firearms Act 1968 Sec 2(1) (Group II) as amended by Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III. Possessing etc. shot gun without certificate.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 5(1) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 S.288. Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition.

Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1)(b) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288. Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons designed for discharge of noxious liquid etc.

Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A)(a) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288. Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object.

Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A) (b),(c),(d)(e),(f) or (g) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288. Possessing or distributing other prohibited weapons.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Judiciary: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value was of public sector pensions for the judiciary in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of providing such pensions in each year. [228432]

Mr. Straw: Figures for the Judicial Pension Scheme have been published in the Scheme's Resource Accounts for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, and are set out in the following table.

The Judicial Pension Scheme's Resource Accounts for 2007-08 will be published in due course.

£000

	Gross pensions expenditure	*Contributions receivable (from members)*	*ASLC*[1] *contributions receivable from employers*
2003-04	48,829	5,591	60,756
2004-05	52,272	5,789	63,887
2005-06	55,572	5,980	66,518
2006-07	58,687	3,679	71,796

[1] Accruing Superannuation Liability Charges.

Note:

Member's basic contribution rates vary between 1.8 per cent. and 2.4 per cent. (equivalent to 3 per cent. and 4 per cent. gross). The ASLC rate was 29.25 per cent. between 2003-04 and 2005-06 and 30.75 per cent. for 2006-07.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates courts have closed in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1995. [227305]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on the magistrates courthouse closures, which occurred prior to 1995. The following table provides details of the magistrates court closures (broken down into *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas) which have taken place since 1995.

Number of magistrates courts closed in each year since 1995[1]

	Rural 75	*Rural 50*	*Significant rural*	*Other urban*	*Large urban*	*Major urban*	*Total number of courts closed*
1995	3	1	1	0	2	0	7
1996	8	6	2	2	0	3	21
1997	2	4	3	3	1	8	21
1998	12	4	1	3	2	3	25
1999	1	0	1	2	1	2	7
2000	8	1	0	2	0	2	13
2001	12	7	3	3	3	2	30
2002	5	0	2	0	0	0	7
2003	9	2	1	1	0	0	13

Number of magistrates courts closed in each year since 1995[1]

	Rural 75	Rural 50	Significant rural	Other urban	Large urban	Major urban	Total number of courts closed
2004	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
2007	1	2	0	0	0	1	4
2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] The rural constituency classification (introduced by the Rural Evidence Research Centre on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2006) has been used to define whether court closures took place in rural/urban areas. The classification divides constituencies into the following six categories:
Rural 75: Over 75 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements (including 207 large market towns);
Rural 50: Over 50 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements (including 207 large market towns);
Significant rural: More than 37,000 or between 26 per cent. and 50 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements;
Other urban: Fewer than 37,000 or less than 26 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements;
Large urban: A minimum of 50,000 or 50 per cent. of the population live in a large urban area; and
Major urban: A minimum of 100,000 or 50 per cent. of the population live in a major urban area (i.e. over 750,000 of the population).

Parental Responsibility

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the implications of the Coleman judgement on the status of parents with a disabled child. [226690]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

In its judgment in Coleman *v.* Attridge Law, the European Court of Justice decided that the European Framework Employment Directive, which concerns equal treatment in employment and occupation, provides protection from direct discrimination or harassment that arises from a person's association with a disabled person. This means that parents of a disabled child, like other associates of a disabled person, are protected by the directive from direct discrimination or harassment on the grounds of their child's disability. The Government are giving careful consideration to this judgment and its implications for domestic anti-discrimination legislation.

Prisons: Crime

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many crimes have been committed in prisons in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* prison establishment; and if he will make a statement. [227283]

Mr. Hanson: This would require the checking of the records of over 140 prisons and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Fires

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fires there were in prisons in each of the last five years; and what the cost of repairing the damage caused by each of them was. [226232]

Mr. Hanson: The data requested are shown in the table.

Total number of fires for the last five financial years

	Number
2003-04	1,101
2004-05	1,040
2005-06	1,087
2006-07	1,094
2007-08	1,064

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

The cost of cell fires (as this is where most fires take place) are not reported centrally therefore this information is not readily available.

Where there is damage to the cell but no injury to persons and damage is considered to be low level, the matter is generally not pursued by the police; however, this may be subject to local adjudication procedures. If the charge is proven as a result of the adjudication there may be loss of privileges, earnings or segregation of the prisoner in question.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Panel

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the expertise and qualifications of the lay members of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Panel will be. [227569]

Bridget Prentice: Appeals and claims will continue to be heard by a specialist panel consisting of a lawyer and two non-legal (specialist) members. The qualification for members of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Panel is experience of educational, child care, health, or social care matters.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who will chair the case management hearings for the new Special Educational Needs and Disability Panel. [227570]

Bridget Prentice: The chairs of case management hearings will be specifically trained for the Special Educational Needs and Disability Panel's (SENDISP) work. No person will chair a Special Educational Needs and Disability case management hearing unless that person has been trained *(a)* in SENDISP's jurisdictions and *(b)* specifically as a case management chair in SENDISP.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expertise or training in special educational needs will be required of chairs of the new Special Educational Needs and Disability Panel. [227571]

Bridget Prentice: The chairs of case management hearings will be specifically trained for the Special Educational Needs and Disability Panel's (SENDISP) work. No person will chair a Special Educational Needs and Disability case management hearing unless that person has been trained *(a)* in SENDISP's jurisdictions and *(b)* specifically as a case management chair in SENDISP.

All current chairs of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal will remain as chairs of the SENDISP. No additional chairs are being sought at this time. Any future appointees will receive the same training as current appointees.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans are in place to assess and review the effects of implementation of the changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal. [227568]

Bridget Prentice: The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) has established a special user group, on which the parent-led Independent Panel for Special Education Advice (IPSEA) is represented, to advise it on what is practical and appropriate for users in the new arrangements. The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) will be able to ask the Senior President of Tribunals to report on this group's work in the annual report that the Senior President of Tribunals submits to him.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken in response to representations from parents about the changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal to be made on 3 November 2008. [227574]

Bridget Prentice: The judicial management group of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) has been running a user group since June of this year with key stakeholders to consider the rules, practice directions and case management processes. A meeting has taken place with the National Association of Independent Schools and Non-Maintained Special Schools and the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice. The majority of the representations from parents have been incorporated into the final rules of procedure and practice directions for the jurisdiction of SENDIST within the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal. SENDIST acting judicial lead, Mr. Simon Oliver, has attended and is continuing to attend parent organisations to help explain the changes and contribute to parent representative training.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the time needed by organisations providing support to parents going to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal to retrain their staff to advise parents on the new system. [227576]

Bridget Prentice: The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal has been specifically allocated £20,000 to train user organisations about the new processes. We are providing training for any representative of service users who wishes to sign up for the courses in the programme. Training will take place throughout November in Newcastle, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol and London. Over 400 individuals have signed up for the free half-day training. It will be delivered by the judiciary, parent representatives and local education authorities representative members of the special user group.

Suicide Act 1961

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the operation of section 2(1) of the Suicide Act 1961; and how many proceedings have been brought under this section since 1978. [227592]

Mr. Straw: As a result of public concern about possible links between suicide and the internet, and in line with recommendations from the Byron Review and the Law Commission, we have considered whether the law in this area could usefully be clarified. As the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) told Parliament in a written ministerial statement on 17 September 2008, *Official Report,* column 142WS, we have concluded that the scope of the current law should not be changed but that the existing statutory language of section 2 of the Suicide Act should be simplified and modernised in a way which will make it clearer for everyone to understand.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to the Suicide Act 1961 S.2(l), 1978 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in November of 2008.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to the Suicide Act 1961 S.2(1), 1978 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against
1978	0
1979	0
1980	1
1981	4
1982	2
1983	2
1984	1
1985	0
1986	1
1987	2
1988	1
1989	5
1990	11
1991	1
1992	4
1993	3
1994	0

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to the Suicide Act 1961 S.2(1), 1978 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against
1995	3
1996	3
1997	4
1998	1
1999	2
2000	4
2001	2
2002	2
2003	3
2004	3
2005	0
2006	5

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:

Suicide Act 1961 Sec 2(1).

Suicide (Aiding, Abetting etc).

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit - Ministry of Justice.

Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he intends to introduce regulations on charging orders under the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. [224560]

Mr. Straw: The enforcement law reforms in part 4 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, which relate to charging orders, require the development of underpinning rules and regulations.

A recently completed scoping exercise, which involved a series of meetings with relevant stakeholders, identified issues that require further public consultation.

Our proposed approach to progressing this and achieving implementation of the Act is being developed and we anticipate that this part of the work will be completed shortly.

Youth Offending Teams: Standards

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the national performance targets for youth offending teams were in each of the last five years; and what the performance of Torbay Youth Offending Team was against those targets. [225375]

Mr. Hanson: A summary of Youth Offending Teams national performance targets for the last five years, along with information on Torbay YOT's performance against these targets is shown.

First-time entrants

These data are not yet available.

Final Warnings

The performance indicator for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was to ensure that 80 per cent. of final warnings were supported by interventions. For the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 the target was raised to 100 per cent. but only applied to young people if their total asset score is greater than or equal to 12, there are any concerns of risk of serious harm to others or their total score is less than 12 but any sections score four. The required target was met by Torbay YOT in each of these years.

Use of secure facilities

The secure remand performance indicator for years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was to reduce the number of remands to the secure estate to no more than 30 per cent. of all remand episode decisions (excluding conditional and unconditional bail). In 2007-08 the new remand target was to reduce the number of remands to no more than 9 per cent. of all remand episode decisions (excluding unconditional bail). The target for custodial sentences was to reduce the number of custodial episodes to no more than 6 per cent. of all court disposals in years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and to no more than 5 per cent. in the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. The Torbay YOT has achieved the target for custodial sentences in all five years whereas the target for secure remands was met in 2005-06 only.

Restorative justice

The performance indicator for 2007-08 was to ensure that victims participate in restorative processes in 25 per cent. of relevant disposals referred to the YOT. Prior to 2007-08 the indicator was to ensure that 75 per cent. of the victims of all youth crimes referred to YOTs are offered the opportunity to participate in a restorative process. In 2003-04 the indicator was to ensure restorative processes are used in 80 per cent. of disposals. The target was exceeded by the YOT in Torbay in all years except in 2003-04.

Victim Satisfaction

In 2003-04 the performance indicator was to ensure that, by the end of the year, 70 per cent. of victims who have been consulted or participated in restorative processes were either satisfied or very satisfied with the outcome. In years 2004-05 to 2006-07 the indicator was to ensure that 75 per cent. of victims participating in a restorative process were satisfied. In 2007/08 the target raised to 85 per cent. The indicator has been exceeded by the Torbay YOT in all five years.

Parenting interventions

In 2007-08 the indicator was to ensure that for 20 per cent. of young people with Final Warnings with intervention, relevant community-based penalties, or DTO, their parent/carer(s) received a parenting intervention. Previously the target was 10 per cent. of young people with community-based penalties. Torbay YOT achieved the target in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Parental Satisfaction

In 2003-04 the performance indicator was to ensure that 70 per cent. of parents completed parenting programmes (voluntary and statutory) and that, of those, at least 70 per cent. were satisfied or very satisfied—the target was met by Torbay. In years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 the parental satisfaction indicator was to ensure that 75 per cent. of parents participating in parenting interventions are satisfied. The indicator was exceeded by Torbay YOT in each of those years.

Parenting prevention

The performance indicator for 2007-08 was to ensure that for 20 per cent. of young people on prevention programmes, their parent/carer(s) receive a parenting intervention. The target has been successfully met by the Torbay YOT.

Asset

The performance indicator was to ensure that Asset was completed for all (100 per cent.) young people subject to final warnings, relevant community based penalties and sentences.

The required target was achieved by Torbay YOT in 2003/04,2004/05,2005/06 and has been narrowly missed in 2006-07.

Pre-sentence reports

The performance indicator was to ensure that 90 per cent. of pre-sentence reports (PSR) prepared for courts were produced within the time scale prescribed by National Standards. The target has been narrowly missed in 2003-04 and achieved in all of the remaining years.

Detention and Training Order

The performance indicator was to ensure that all (100 per cent.) initial training plans for young people subject to DTOs were developed within the time scales prescribed by national standards. The Torbay YOT met this indicator in 2003-04,2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Education, training and employment

The performance indicator was to ensure that 90 per cent. of young offenders supervised by YOTs are in suitable full-time education, training or employment (ETE). The required target level has still not been met by the YOT in Torbay.

Suitable accommodation

The performance indicator was to ensure that all (100 per cent.) young people completing community interventions, or on release from the secure estate, have suitable accommodation to go to. Torbay has narrowly missed this target in each of the years.

Mental Health

The performance indicator was to ensure that all (100 per cent.) young people, who were assessed by Asset or the Mental Health Assessment Framework as manifesting:

acute mental health difficulties, are referred by YOTs to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) for a formal assessment commencing within five working days of the receipt of referral, with a view to their accessing a tier 3 service or other appropriate CAMHS tier service based on this assessment

non-acute mental health concerns are referred by the YOT for an assessment, and engagement by the appropriate CAMHS tier (1-3) commencing within 15 working days.

The target on Acute Mental Health was achieved by Torbay YOT in 2003-04, 2005-06 and 2006-07. On non-acute mental health the target has been met in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Substance Misuse

The performance indicator was to ensure all young people were screened for substance misuse, that those with identified needs receive appropriate specialist assessment within five working days and following the assessment, access the early intervention and treatment services they require within 10 working days. The target on the timeliness of the assessments has been achieved by Torbay YOT in 2006-07 and 2007-08. The target for the timeliness of the interventions has been met in each year since 2005-06.

Reoffending

In 2006-07 the performance indicator was to reduce the reoffending rate for the 2005 cohort after 12 months, when compared to the 2002 baseline, with the respect of the following four populations:

pre-court
first-tier penalties
community penalties
custodial penalties

Torbay YOT met the target and reduced the reoffending rate by 12.4 per cent.

Ethnicity

The performance indicator for 2006-07 and 2007-08 was to ensure that any significant difference between the ethnic composition of offenders on all pre-court and court disposals and the ethnic composition of the local community was reduced year on year. The indicator focuses on achieving a significant reduction (with a 90 per cent. confidence interval) in the disproportionally of the ethnic group most over-represented in 2005-06.

Torbay YOT has not been scored on ethnicity as the overrepresentation in 2005-06 was not statistically significant.

The following table shows performance against the targets/indicators.

Performance indicators			*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Reduction in the reoffending rate compared to 2002 baseline		Target	—	—	—	5.0	—
		Torbay	—	—	—	12.4	—
Final Warnings		Target	80.0	80.0	80.0	100.0	100.0
		Torbay	93.5	92.8	85.3	100.0	98.1
Use of secure facilities	Secure remands	Target	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	9.0
		Torbay	46.2	35.3	26.7	35.0	10.3
	Use of custody	Target	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.0	5.0
		Torbay	0.7	0.8	3.7	2.4	3.3
Restorative justice	Restorative justice	Target	80.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	25.0
		Torbay	72.4	90.6	85.8	93.4	62.2
	Victim satisfaction	Target	70.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	85.0

Performance indicators			*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
		Torbay	92.4	97.6	97.1	99.1	98.1
Parenting	Parenting interventions	Target	—	10.0	10.0	10.0	20.0
		Torbay	—	18.7	16.9	11.6	8.6
	Parenting satisfactions (prevention programmes 07-08*)	Target	70.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	*20
		Torbay	100.0	93.3	95.2	95.5	*20
Asset		Target	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—
		Torbay	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.4	—
Pre Sentence Reports		Target	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	—
		Torbay	*89.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	—
Detention Training Orders		Target	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		Torbay	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	90.9
Education, Training and Employment		Target	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0
		Torbay	73.2	81.7	85.9	82.2	76.8
Accommodation		Target	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		Torbay	97.0	99.0	96.1	95.1	97.1
Mental Health		Target	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Acute CAMHS	Torbay	100.0	n/a	100.0	100.0	n/a
		Target	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Non-acute CAMHS	Torbay	100.0	100.0	86.7	78.3	82.9
Substance Misuse		Target	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	assessment	Torbay	—	77.8	97.1	100.0	100.0
		Target	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	intervention	Torbay	—	98.4	100.0	100.0	100.0

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress the Crown Prosecution Service has made on an action plan following its response to the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-Semitism. [228308]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has written to the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on anti-Semitism with a copy of its anti-Semitic crime action plan. The plan sets out how the CPS will take the following action:

> Provide prosecutors with better guidance to help them identify and refer appropriate cases to the CPS' counter-terrorism division;
>
> Ensure a proactive approach when working with the police so that the strongest possible cases are built;
>
> Improve the level of support provided to victims of anti-Semitic crime, and encourage victims to support a prosecution; and
>
> Increase and improve community engagement.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Solicitor-General what funding has been agreed with each of the Law Officers' Departments' non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [228691]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments do not have any non-departmental public bodies. However, a new agency, the National Fraud Strategic Authority, was established on 1 October 2008 and has resource funding of £3.6 million for 2008-09, £3.8 million for 2009-10 and £4.9 million for 2010-11.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in the Attorney-General's office in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226430]

The Solicitor-General: There were 25 non-pensionable bonuses awarded to staff in the Attorney-General's Office in the last year at a total cost of £122,597.00

Of these, three were special bonuses awarded to staff at a total cost of £750.00. A special bonus payment is nominated by a line manager for an exceptional piece of work or performance.

11 were performance bonuses following appraisals at a total cost of £6,707.00

11 were SCS board recommendations at a total cost of £115,140.00.

SCOTLAND

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) host and (ii) attend in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226951]

Ann McKechin: The Secretary of State for Scotland attended two Christmas functions during 2007-08. There was no additional cost to the public purse for attendance at these events. No functions were hosted or paid for by the Scotland Office during this period. No Scotland Office officials attended any Christmas functions in their official capacity during this period.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2003-04 and *(e)* 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227056]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland spent the following on taxis for staff:

	£
2002-03	8,659
2003-04	8,172
2004-05	7,821
2005-06	8,291
2006-07	7,595

HEALTH

Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1878W, on cancer, what percentage of cancer patients in each *(a)* cancer network and *(b)* primary care trust area survived five years beyond diagnosis. [226315]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of cancer patients in each (a) cancer network and (b) primary care trust area survived five years beyond diagnosis [226315].

Cancer survival rates are only produced for specific cancers. A figure giving the overall survival rate for all cancer patients is not produced as it would not be meaningful to combine figures for disparate conditions having very different survival rates.

ONS regularly publishes five-year survival rates for patients resident in 'Spearhead' primary care trusts of England, compared with those resident in the rest of England. The latest figures on survival rates for ten cancers (bladder, breast, cervix, colon, lung, oesophagus, ovary, prostate, rectum and stomach) diagnosed during 1998-2003 and followed for survival up to the end of 2004, are in Table 1 below.

The figures are also available on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14821.

For added information to your question, the lowest geographical area for which rates are available are strategic health authority areas. Five-year survival rates for patients resident in government office regions, and strategic health authorities for eight cancers (bladder, breast, cervix, colon, lung, oesophagus, prostate and stomach) are available on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991&Pos=9&ColRank=1&Rank=272

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not produce survival rates by cancer network. However, the Cancer Survival Unit at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine published the following methodological paper in the ONS publication 'Health Statistics Quarterly':

Ellis L, Rachet B & Coleman MP. Cancer survival indicators by Cancer Network: a methodological perspective. Health Statistics Quarterly 2007; 36; 36-41.

Table 1: Five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival[2] (percentage) for adult[3] patients diagnosed during 1998 to 2003 and followed up to the end of 2004, 10 common cancers, by sex: 'Spearhead' primary care trusts (PCTs)[4] and rest of England[5]

		Five-year relative survival (percentage)	
Cancer[6]		*Spearhead PCTs*	*Rest of England*
Bladder	Men	57.1	60.4
	Women	49.1	53.6
	Persons	55.0	58.6
Breast	Women	78.2	79.8
Cervix	Women	63.3	62.7
Colon	Men	47.1	48.3
	Women	47.9	49.6
	Persons	47.4	48.9
Lung	Men	5.9	6.6
	Women	7.5	7.6
	Persons	6.6	6.9
Oesophagus	Men	[illegible].4	8.8
	Women	8.9	11.6
	Persons	8.0	9.7
Ovary	Women	39.2	37.9
Prostate	Men	69.2	71.1
Rectum	Men	46.6	50.8
	Women	50.1	53.7
	Persons	47.7	52.1
Stomach	Men	12.6	13.0
	Women	14.8	16.3
	Persons	13.3	14.2

[1] Cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, so the survival rates for all ages (15 to 99 years) have been age-standardised to control for differences in the age profile of cancer patients between geographical areas.

[2] Relative survival takes into account that some cancer patients will die from causes other than their cancer. It is the ratio of the crude survival to the survival in a corresponding (age and sex) group in the general population.

[3] Aged 15 to 99 years at diagnosis.

[4] On 19 November 2004, the Department of Health named the 88 most health-deprived primary care trusts (PCTs) in England included in the 'Spearhead' group.

[5] All other primary care trusts (PCTs) in England not included in the 'Spearhead' group.

[6] Cancers registered in 1998 to 2003 are defined by codes in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Therefore, bladder cancer is defined by code C67, breast cancer by code C50, cervical cancer by code C53, colon cancer by code C18, lung cancer by code C34, oesophageal cancer by code C15, ovarian cancer by code C56, prostate cancer by code C61, rectal cancer by code C20 and stomach cancer by code C16.

Care Homes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each local authority spent on state-funded care in each of the last five financial years, broken down by *(a)* community-based care and *(b)* residential care. [226308]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data on local authority expenditure on state funded care are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. Information on the gross expenditure by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) on residential care and community based services between 2003-04 and 2007-08 has been placed in the Library.

Cataracts: Waiting Lists

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the median waiting time for treatment of cataracts in NHS hospitals was in each year since 1997-98; and how many treatments were provided in each such year. [227504]

Ann Keen: The following table sets out the median days waited in England for cataract operations and the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where a cataract operation was the main or secondary procedure in each year since 1997-98.

	Median days waited	*FCEs*
1997-98	164	179,393
1998-99	188	221,393
1999-2000	165	231,699
2000-01	154	256,164
2001-02	145	263,947
2002-03	140	284,852
2003-04	124	312,447
2004-05	78	319,933
2005-06	68	302,876
2006-07	69	305,612
2007-08	n/a	n/a

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Departmental Consultants

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which of his Department's programmes *(a)* the total cost of employing consultants has surpassed £500,000 and *(b)* his Department employed consultants at a cost of more than £100,000 per annum in the latest period for which figures are available. [226857]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to provide the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226524]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department uses a number of effectiveness evaluation techniques including quantitative awareness tracking, response tracking and multiple data source evaluation techniques such as COI Artemis. A Central Office of Information (COI) service designed to capture and report centrally across all campaigns to enable:

1. *Response and conversion analysis:*
    - by audience, media channel, vehicle of response;
    - viewed alongside awareness;
2. *Campaign Planning:*
    - setting realistic objectives;
    - task based budget setting;
    - improving plans; and
3. *Forecasting demand.*

The Department also buys its media centrally through COI and therefore benefits from significant, independently verified, discounts.

Departmental Pay

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets the Commercial Director of his Department must achieve to qualify for bonus payment; and what bonus levels are in place. [227459]

Mr. Bradshaw: All Senior Civil Service (SCS) posts are covered by SCS pay and performance management arrangements. These arrangements apply across all departments, and postholders have individual performance agreements set annually. The size of any bonus will depend on how the postholder performs relative to other SCS colleagues in the Department.

Diazoxide

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of levels of availability and supply of the drug diazoxide suspension. [228429]

Dawn Primarolo: Diazoxide suspension is not licensed for use in the United Kingdom. Under UK Medicines Legislation, doctors are allowed to prescribe unlicensed medicines for use on an individual patient basis, but take direct personal responsibility for their use. Diazoxide suspension is available from abroad, and may also be produced in the UK under a manufacturer's licence allowing production of unlicensed products. The product is currently available via either of these routes.

Disability Aids: Sight Impairment

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has given on the rules covering companies which both produce and conduct assessments of products for visually-impaired people to ensure there is no conflict of interest. [227452]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* The Department has issued no guidance on this matter.

FirstAssist

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid by the NHS Litigation Authority to FirstAssist by way of premiums; and how much has been paid by FirstAssist to the NHS Litigation Authority by way of payments under policies of insurance in each year since the inception of the accord between the NHS Litigation Authority and FirstAssist. [228303]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority has not paid any money to FirstAssist by way of premiums. Where the NHSLA makes payments for legal costs, these payments are made to claimants' solicitors as global figures to cover all costs in the case and not to the insurer. The NHSLA does not record separately whether payments have been made or received under the accord. Providing this detailed information could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions since its inception the accord between the NHS Litigation Authority and FirstAssist has not been complied with in the payment of monies by the NHS Litigation Authority to FirstAssist. [228304]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority does not record separately for individual cases where the accord has not been complied with. Providing the information requested could be achieved only at disproportionate cost. However, we understand that while disputes over premiums have been raised, compromise has always been reached without the need to refer to a costs judge for a detailed assessment.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 455W, on the NHS: negligence, what the legal basis is for the non-binding status of the accord between the NHS Litigation Authority and FirstAssist. [228305]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority has informed us that both parties are agreed that the Accord between them is not binding.

General Practitioners: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average general medical services weighted capitation payment received by GP practices was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust, in each of the last four years. [227503]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on general medical services average weighted capitation payments received by general practitioner practices in both England and by primary care trusts for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 has been placed in the Library. Figures for 2007-08 are not currently available.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department has gathered from primary care trusts to assess progress in the implementation of the GP-led health centres programme. [226293]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts provide a monthly update on progress against national procurement milestones, confirmation of compliance with core criteria, the expected date of service commencement, and where known, the postcode of the service location.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect of allowing primary care trusts to provide a minimum income guarantee to the new GP-led health centres to open in their areas on existing GP practices. [226294]

Mr. Bradshaw: Providing an income guarantee to a new general practitioner (GP)-led health centre will have no impact on the funding of existing GP practices.

It is for each primary care trusts to determine locally the funding for their health centre, including what percentage of income is to be guaranteed to the provider, and for how long.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have made a request to his Department that an existing health centre or health centre already under development be counted as its contribution to his Department's programme for a GP-led health centre in each primary care trust area; and which requests were accepted. [226304]

Mr. Bradshaw: All primary care trusts have been asked to commission an additional general practitioner-led health centre, and have been given additional funding to commission those services. The Department has not received specific requests from primary care trusts to use existing health centres. PCTs have been guided by the principle that these should be new procurements, but that they could count any planned health centres as long as they had not already been put out to tender before the publication of "Our NHS, Our Future: The NHS Next Stage Review Interim Report" in October 2007, and met the core criteria. These are centres that must be open 8am to 8pm 365 days a year and be situated in easily accessible locations, with bookable and walk-in appointments for both registered and non-registered patients.

Health Centres: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1689W, on health centres, for what reason GP-led health centres will not receive payments for treating patients registered with another GP practice. [227512]

Mr. Bradshaw: Payment for services delivered by each general practitioner (GP)-led health centre is a local matter for each primary care trust (PCT). PCTs have been advised to make payments on a similar basis to that which existing GP practices receive funding for treating patients i.e. a mixture of funding based on the number of patients registered with them and volume of activity of treating patients not registered with the centre.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire on 1 September 2008, *Official*

Report, column 1689W, on health centres: finance, how much each primary care trust will receive of the £120 million allocated for new GP-led health centres. [227513]

Mr. Bradshaw: A £250 million access revenue fund was secured for the NHS through the comprehensive spending review process to support the delivery of general practitioner (GP)-led health centres in every primary care trust (PCT) and 112 new GP practices in the most poorly served PCTs. Collectively, £120 million of the access fund will be recurrently allocated to PCTs in their general allocation using the standard weighted capitation formula which determines each PCTs target share of available resources. PCTs general allocations and are not broken down into individual components for specific policy delivery. General allocations to PCTs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be announced in due course.

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which comparable measures of the quality of acute patient care have been identified, as referred to on page 50 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; what assessment he has made of the robustness of such measures; what plans he has to increase the accuracy of the measures included in the integrated national set; whether he plans to publish a draft integrated national set of quality metrics for consultation; and if he will make a statement. [221123]

Mr. Bradshaw: A full set of quality measures for acute patient care has not yet been identified. Departmental officials, in partnership with the NHS Information Centre for health and social care have begun identifying measures from existing sources in the national health service, other health-related organisations and internationally. These measures have been informally assessed for robustness in terms of availability and relevance to a broad range of clinical care areas.

Further work on the usefulness and accuracy of such measures, including definitions and methodology, is required before indicators can be considered viable for use in an integrated national set. This work will be informed by further discussion and consultation with clinical and expert stakeholders.

Hospital Beds

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the pilot project to evaluate the implications for nursing of 100 per cent. single room provision in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [227507]

Mr. Bradshaw: The pilot project at Hillingdon hospital to develop and test a 24-bed ward of single rooms has progressed to a stage where the construction of the unit is now complete. A plan is in place to test the prototype accommodation in use through an evidence-based programme of research. This will focus on clinical outcomes, economic outcomes, patient and staff satisfaction and spatial analysis. Learning from the pilot will be transferable across the whole national health service.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to phase out mixed-sex wards in NHS hospitals. [227829]

Ann Keen: The Department's guidance to the national health service has always required single sex accommodation rather than single sex wards. Even within a mixed ward, good single sex accommodation can be achieved by using single rooms or single sex bays and toilet facilities.

The Department continues to engage strategic health authorities about their plans to deliver a reduction in mixed sex accommodation, thus keeping levels to an absolute minimum, and where possible eliminating it.

Local plans have been made in the context of the operating framework for the NHS in England (2008-09) (this publication has already been deposited in the Library), which requires primary care trusts to review the current situation in all trusts and agree, publish, and implement stretching local plans for improvement in delivering single sex accommodation, with identified timescales and monitoring mechanisms. The framework specifically requires that patient survey results, where available, be used as the monitoring mechanism.

Hospitals: Libraries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on hospital libraries in the last five years. [227791]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Security Guards

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on security staff in hospitals in *(a)* England and *(b)* the London Borough of Havering in the last year for which information is available. [227770]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Injuries: Health Services

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many minor injuries units there were *(a)* at the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* in 2006-07. [228105]

Ann Keen: National health service trusts in England self-report the number of accident and emergency (A&E) services they provide against definitions provided by the Department on a quarterly basis. This includes type 3 services, which are A&E services providing minor injury and illness services and include walk-in centres and minor injury units.

It is possible to provide numbers of type 3 services excluding walk-in centres. However, the remaining type 3 services may provide a range of minor injury and illness services, not simply a count of minor injury units.

Latest information shows that, for the quarter ending in June 2008, NHS trusts self-reported 214 type 3 A&E services, excluding walk-in centres. For 2006-07 the figure was 220.

Notes:

1. From Q1 2007-08, for the first time, data includes information from appropriate independent sector providers that provide services only to NHS patients.

2. The figure for 2006-07 was the position at end March 2007 (quarter four 2006-07).

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 18 and *(c)* over 18 years were admitted to hospital with stab wounds in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [223909]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following primary care trust (PCT) tables provide information from hospital episode statistics for South Tyneside, the north-east and England. There is no information provided for Jarrow because data are not collected for that geographical area. Information has been provided according to the age categories requested where possible. However, no age breakdown has been provided for South Tyneside PCT because the numbers involved are below five and need to be suppressed in order to maintain confidentiality.

The code 'W26' is used for such diagnoses as accidental knife injuries and should exclude assault and intentional self-harm. The code 'X99' includes cases where someone has been attacked using a sharp object of some kind (including but not exclusive to knives). Information has been provided for W26 and X99.

Reference should be made to the footnotes and clinical codes when interpreting the data.

Total number of admissions to hospital for stab wounds[1] for years 1996-97 to 2006-07, broken down by age—where possible—for South Tyneside PCT, North East SHA and England

South Tyneside PCT

Stab wounds

	W26	*X99*
2006-07	12	22
2005-06	13	26
2004-05	17	32
2003-04	20	38
2002-03	20	23
2001-02	15	26
2000-01	18	19
1999-2000	14	18
1998-99	23	11
1997-98	20	11

North-east

Stab wounds

	W26					*X99*				
	Under 16	*16-18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown*	*Total*	*Under 16*	*16-18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown*	*Total*
2006-07	27	29	306	0	365	10	36	313	0	363
2005-06	21	41	328	0	390	4	33	333	0	370
2004-05	32	31	366	0	429	13	44	327	0	384
2003-04	28	27	379	0	434	8	41	285	0	334
2002-03	29	34	307	0	370	7	31	294	0	332
2001-02	19	32	346	0	397	18	35	297	0	350
2000-01	31	21	284	0	336	3	32	249	0	284
1999-2000	27	23	289	0	339	6	35	252	0	293
1998-99	22	24	246	0	292	5	26	234	1	266
1997-98	22	25	211	0	258	9	29	209	0	247

England

Stab wounds

	W26					*X99*				
	Under 16	*16-18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown*	*Total*	*Under 16*	*16-18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown*	*Total*
2006-07	316	370	4,598	0	5,284	179	752	4,786	3	5,720
2005-06	343	408	4,569	1	5,321	169	668	4,655	4	5,496
2004-05	331	358	4,249	1	4,939	143	553	4,374	2	5,072
2003-04	312	330	4,277	2	4,921	110	529	4,125	10	4,774
2002-03	348	350	4,107	0	4,805	95	429	3,745	6	4,275
2001-02	347	340	3,943	37	4,667	132	508	3,973	29	4,642
2000-01	333	335	3,934	5	4,607	130	444	3,662	13	4,249
1999-2000	320	347	3,791	4	4,462	118	437	3,549	21	4,125
1998-99	298	321	3,380	3	4,002	88	355	3,206	18	3,667
1997-98	277	279	3,114	60	3,730	112	422	3,283	58	3,875

Total number of admissions per 100,000 to hospital for stab wounds[1] for years 1996-97 to 2006-07, broken down—where possible—by age for South Tyneside PCT, North East SHA and England

South Tyneside PCT

	Stab wounds	
	W26	*X99*
2006-07	7.95	14.57
2005-06	8.60	17.20
2004-05	11.24	21.15
2003-04	13.16	25.01
2002-03	13.11	15.08

North-east

	Stab wounds							
	W26				*X99*			
	Under 16	16-18	Over 18	Unknown	Under 16	16-18	Over 18	Unknown
2006-07	5.75	28.50	15.42	0.00	2.13	35.39	15.77	0.00
2005-06	4.43	40.12	16.62	0.00	0.84	32.29	16.87	0.00
2004-05	6.67	30.02	18.68	0.00	2.71	42.62	16.69	0.00
2003-04	5.76	26.23	19.41	0.00	1.65	39.84	14.60	0.00
2002-03	5.89	33.56	15.77	0.00	142	30.60	15.10	0.00
2001-02	3.79	32.40	17.83	0.00	3.59	35.43	15.31	0.00
2000-01	6.09	21.65	14.66	0.00	0.59	32.99	12.85	0.00
1999-2000	5.24	23.40	14.92	0.00	1.16	35.61	13.01	0.00
1998-99	4.22	24.20	12.68	0.00	0.96	26.22	12.06	0.04
1997-98	4.17	25.16	10.87	0.00	1.71	29.19	10.77	0.00

England

	Stab wounds							
	W26				*X99*			
	Under 16	*16-18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown*	*Under 16*	*16-18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown*
2006-07	1.63	9.26	5.88	0.00	0.93	18.82	6.12	0.00
2005-06	1.77	10.30	5.89	0.00	0.87	16.86	6.00	0.00
2004-05	1.70	9.16	5.53	0.00	0.73	14.15	5.70	0.00
2003-04	1.59	8.59	5.61	0.00	0.56	13.77	5.41	0.00
2002-03	1.77	9.32	5.42	0.00	0.48	11.43	4.94	0.00
2001-02	1.75	9.28	5.23	0.00	0.67	13.87	5.27	0.00
2000-01	1.67	9.39	5.25	0.00	0.65	12.45	4.89	0.00
1999-2000	1.60	9.66	5.09	0.00	0.59	12.16	4.77	0.00
1998-99	1.49	8.87	4.57	0.00	0.44	9.81	4.33	0.00
1997-98	1.39	7.75	4.22	0.00	0.56	11.72	4.45	0.00

Notes:

1. Assignment of episodes to years: Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

2. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

3. Cause code—stab wounds[1]: The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. HES has used the following ICD-10 external cause codes when referring to stab wounds.

Stab wounds[1]:

W26—Contact with knife, sword or dagger.

X99—Assault by sharp object.

4. Data quality: Hospital episode statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

5. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

6. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

7. Low numbers: Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk).

8. Primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) data quality: PCT and SHA data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of Treatment and SHA of Treatment is poor in 1996-97,1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Sources:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Strategic Health Authority (SHA) Population data

1997-2006 SHA Mid Year Estimates, 2001 Census based. Source: ONS Population Estimates Unit

2002-06 PCT population data is calculated out on the new ONS methodology and are the recognised population estimates. Previous methodology was applied to data of 2001 only but has been disregarded for the purpose of this PQ as the totals of the old methodologies and new methodologies will not be the same.

Medical Treatments: Finance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of medical care per head of prison population was in each of the last 10 years. [226226]

Phil Hope: For 2008-09, a £202 million investment has been made in prison health care. Based on Current population figures, this equates to £2,435 per head.

The Department does not hold details of clinical care on a cost per case basis nor is information on previous years held centrally.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department to respond to the letter sent by the hon. Member for Billericay to the Under-Secretary of State for Health, dated 25 September, on the subject of the accord between the NHS Litigation Authority and FirstAssist. [228302]

Ann Keen: Information regarding the accord between FirstAssist and the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) is not held by the Department. It is necessary to obtain the information from the NHSLA and every effort will be made to respond within the Department's Whitehall Standard target of 20 working days from receipt of the letter.

Mental Health Services: Young Offender Institutions

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on average in providing child and adolescent mental health services for each young offenders institution in each of the last eight years; and if he will make a statement. [226703]

Phil Hope: Transfer of the responsibility for commissioning health services in young offender institutions, and adult prisons in England, commenced in 2003 and was fully devolved to the NHS by April 2006. Primary care trusts (PCTs) work with their partner establishments to develop a comprehensive health needs assessment of the population and commission on the basis of that need.

Since 2006 all funding, including funding for mental health, forms part of the wider health care allocation and is paid out as part of the NHS bundle and part of the PCT main allocation.

The Department has provided £1.5 million additional funding for 2007-08, repeated in 2008-09, to extend the range of child and adolescent mental health services in the secure estate for children and young people.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which child and adolescent mental health service inreach teams which carry out psychological assessments of young offenders at young offender institutions routinely carry out assessments of all offenders at those institutions; and if he will make a statement. [226709]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

All young offenders receive health screening including mental health on reception into custody. This is via an evidence-based health screen used throughout all prisons in England and originally developed by Professor Grubin of the University of Newcastle.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of people who were serving sentences at each young offender institution who had been receiving treatment from child and adolescent mental health services prior to commencing their sentence in each of the last eight years. [226718]

Phil Hope: This information is not available centrally.

The availability of health care records is something which Connecting for Health are actively pursuing through general practitioner (GP) to GP links. These systems are currently available in the wider community, but not yet available to the offender population.

Work is under way within the Department to look at GP registration for offenders and the road map for Prison Health IT as part of the future proofing for the current prison IT programme, and in recognition of any recommendations which fall out of the Bradley Review, CAMHS Review and the Children and Young People Health and Social Care Strategy, to ensure those wider Connecting for Health processes (such as GP registration and connectivity to the NHS spine) are made available to the wider offender population including young people.

Midwives: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 483W, on midwives: training, whether the number of NHS midwifery training places commissioned for the 2007-08 academic year has been confirmed. [226316]

Ann Keen: The confirmed number of national health service midwifery training places commissioned for the 2007-08 academic year is 2,071.

The following table shows the number of NHS midwifery confirmed training places commissioned each year from 1996-97 to 2007-08.

	1996-97	*1999-2000*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Degree	161	395	621	709	753	895	1,042	788	1,307
Diploma	498	620	525	724	716	744	517	648	412
Other	993	757	732	677	757	735	661	554	352
Total	1,652	1,772	1,878	2,110	2,226	2,374	2,220	1,990	2,071

Source:
Quarterly Monitoring Returns.

Neurology: Manpower

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many neurologists are employed by the NHS; how many were employed in 1997; and if he will make a statement. [228295]

Ann Keen: The number of neurological consultants employed by the national health service was 278 (246 full-time equivalent (FTE)) in 1997. This figure had risen to 539 (486 FTE) by September 2007.

NHS

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with a home address in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Northern Ireland were treated in NHS facilities in England in each year since 2006. [226859]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following table.

Number of admissions to hospital where the patient's home address is in Scotland or Northern Ireland in 2005-06 and 2006-07

Strategic health authority (SHA) of residence	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Scotland	7,378	7,518
Northern Ireland	1,483	1,483
Total	12,678,628	12,976,273

Note:
Total includes England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, other countries and unknown SHA of residence
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

NHS: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts are deemed financially challenged; what the cumulative deficit of each such trust is; what estimate has been made of the proportion of turnover for 2008-09 that the deficit represents in each case; what support such trusts are receiving; and if he will make a statement. [227505]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department introduced a new working capital loans system in 2006-07. Instead of relying on brokerage as a source of funding or planned support, trust working capital requirements must now be financed by loans agreed with the Department and recorded in individual accounts. Organisations now have to address financial problems head-on and take steps to ensure that they live within their means. Deficits remain where they occur, and are transparent in final accounts at the year-end.

As a result of introducing the new loans system, there were 17 NHS trusts where the financial challenges are such that the Department either could not give a loan because the trust could not afford to meet the repayments, or where a loan was agreed, but the amount could be repaid only over a very extended timescale. Instead these trusts were advanced money as a short-term measure to cover their running costs while a rigorous review was conducted on their finances.

In the 2007/08 Quarter 4 edition of The Quarter (a copy of which has been placed in the Library), the Department announced that 10 of the original 17 trusts were no longer classified as financially challenged. This was a result of the trusts working extremely hard in conjunction with their strategic health authorities (SHA) and primary care trusts (PCT) to improve their underlying financial position. As a result they are now trading in balance and are able to produce sufficient surpluses going forward to operate as a sustainable organisation, both financially and in the provision of health care. All 10 of these organisations will have repaid their debt within five years

The remaining seven NHS organisations currently deemed as financially challenged trusts, and their forecast cumulative deficit for the end of the 2008-09 financial year, as a total and as a percentage of their forecasted 2008-09 turnover are given in the following table:

£000

Organisation	*Cumulative deficit position at the end of the 2007-08 financial year*	*Quarter 1 forecast outturn for the 2008-09 financial year*	*Forecast cumulative deficit position at the end of the 2008-09 financial year*	*Planned turnover 2008-09*	*Forecast cumulative deficit position for 2008-09 financial year as percentage of 2008-09 forecast turnover*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	(68,454)	(23,300)	(91,754)	363,958	25
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	(49,515)	203	(49,312)	172,189	29
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	(38,972)	0	(38,972)	86,060	45
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	(42,953)	(5,520)	(48,473)	151,164	32
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	(27,474)	(14,147)	(41,621)	95,649	44
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	(9,638)	300	(9,338)	163,248	6
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	(25,868)	(2,753)	(28,621)	197,747	14

As reported in the 2008-09 Quarter 1 edition of 'The Quarter', the Department is continuing to work with these organisations to identify sustainable operating and financial solutions as we go forward.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is the senior officer responsible for Connecting for Health. [226275]

Mr. Bradshaw: Day-to-day responsibility for NHS Connecting for Health and the programmes and projects for which it is responsible lies with Martin Bellamy, director of programme and system delivery. Mr. Bellamy reports to Christine Connelly, the Department's chief information officer for health, whose role is to develop and deliver the Department's overall information strategy and to integrate leadership across the national health service and associated bodies, including NHS Connecting for Health.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* administrators were employed by the NHS in 2007-08. [228097]

Ann Keen: The last national health service workforce census showed that as of 30 September 2007, there were 127,645 doctors (excluding retainers, but including general practitioners), 376,737 qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff and 256,686 total clerical and administrative staff.

NHS: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value was of public-sector pensions in the NHS in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of providing such pensions in each year. [228435]

Ann Keen: The information requested for England and Wales is given in the following table.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total pension expenditure (£000)	3,173,435	3,355,137	3,588,832	3,943,072	4,461,791
Employer contributions (£000)	1,632,536	3,588,337	3,890,167	4,301,122	4,579,685
Employee contributions (£000)	1,509,710	1,645,090	1,818,140	1,995,282	2,127,235
Total income received (£000)	3,374,243	5,500,521	5,999,216	6,569,369	7,043,875
Employer contribution rate (Percentage)	7	14	14	14	14
Employee contribution rate (Percentage)					
Manual staff	5	5	5	5	5
Others	6	6	6	6	6

Notes:
1. Total pension expenditure includes transfers out and refunds.
2. Total income received includes transfers in, and premature retirement costs.
Source:
NHS Pensions.

Organ Donors

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of donor hearts were found to be diseased or otherwise defective prior to transplantation in the latest period for which figures are available; [226860]

(2) what percentage of hearts removed from donors *(a)* were transplanted into recipients, *(b)* reached their destination hospital within four hours of ischaemic time and *(c)* were not transplanted into recipients in the latest period for which figures are available. [226861]

Ann Keen: Organs are offered to transplant centres for potential transplantation into patients on the basis of the information available about the donor. Transplant centres may decline organs based on the information supplied before they are retrieved.

Between April 2007 and March 2008 of the 444 hearts which were offered for transplantation, 317 were not accepted because they were damaged, had poor function or for a reason unrelated to the condition of the heart. Of the 127 hearts retrieved, only three were found to be unsuitable on arrival at the transplant centre.

As for the time between removal and perfusion of the heart to arrival at the recipient hospital in 116 of 127 cases, in over 99 per cent. of cases the organ reached the destination hospital in less than four hours.

Palliative Care

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on "do not resuscitate" decisions. [228447]

Ann Keen: Individual decisions about resuscitation, like all treatment decisions, are a matter for the health professionals and patients involved. Health professionals should discuss possible treatment options with patients, including, where appropriate, whether resuscitation should be attempted. If it is agreed that resuscitation should not be attempted, then this agreement should be noted in the person's medical records (a "do not attempt resuscitation" order). As with other treatments, a person with capacity can make an advance decision to refuse resuscitation, which must be followed if it is valid and applicable.

If the patient does not have the capacity to make the decision, then health professionals will need to make treatment decisions in line with the Mental Capacity Act. The decision must be made in the person's best interests, which includes consideration of the person's wishes and preferences and the person's medical condition and the likely success of resuscitation, in discussion with the person's family and friends.

Trusts and other organisations should have resuscitation policies in place that reflect clinical best practice and the legal position.

Pharmacy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP dispensaries there are in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [228536]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data are only available by primary care trust area and for England only. Information relating to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for each Devolved Administration.

The Ribble Valley constituency is covered by two PCTs—Central Lancashire PCT and East Lancashire PCT. There are five PCTs covering the Lancashire area—Central Lancashire PCT; East Lancashire PCT; North Lancashire PCT; Blackpool PCT and Blackburn and Darwen PCT.

Information on the number of dispensing practices in each PCT area is given in the following table.

	Dispensing	*Non-dispensing*
Blackburn and Darwen PCT (5CC)	0	40
Blackpool PCT (5HP)	0	28
Central Lancashire PCT (5NG)	2	98
East Lancashire PCT (5NH)	6	71
North Lancashire PCT (5NF)	6	47
Total	14	284

Note:

1. Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT became part of East Lancashire PCT on 1 October 2006.

As at 16 October 2008, there were 1,122 dispensing general practitioner practices in England.

Pharmacy: Licensing

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pharmaceutical licences have been awarded under Section 13 of the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 in *(a)* West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency, *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area and *(c)* England. [228033]

Phil Hope: One pharmacy application under regulation 13 of the 2005 regulations was granted in the period 2005-06 to 2006-07 in mid-Essex primary care trust (PCT) and its predecessor organisations (Chelmsford, Maldon and South Chelmsford and Witham, Braintree and Halstead PCTs)—the local geographic area for which data is collected centrally. There were 542 such applications approved in England in the same period. Figures for 2007-08 will be published by the Information Centre for health and social care in due course.

Physiotherapy: Waiting Lists

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce waiting times for physiotherapy for elderly and vulnerable patients. [225482]

Ann Keen: Information about waiting times for physiotherapy is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice-based commissioners, local government and the public to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including access to physiotherapy.

The national health service has seen historical levels of investment and a period of expansion in the work force to improve services and reduce waiting times since 1997. The number of physiotherapists employed in the NHS has increased by 41 per cent. since 1997, from 14,243 to 20,146 in 2007.

In the White Paper, "Our Health our care, our say" (CM 6737) (copies of which are available in the Library), we set out the future direction for health care, including access to physiotherapy. We have collaborated with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy to pilot and evaluate self-referral to physiotherapy. The conclusions from these pilots will be included in a report to be published shortly.

Physiotherapy services are included in the 18-week patient pathway if their intervention forms part of a consultant-led pathway. The Allied Health Professions (AHP) Service Improvement Programme was undertaken to support AHP service improvement through information management. The outcomes of the programme are the Physiotherapy Pathway Improvement Tool and the Information Management Handbook for AHP Services. Both interactive documents build on good practice to provide guidance for benchmarking current practice, making improvements and monitoring progress. The tools are available on the 18 weeks website at:

www.18weeks.nhs.uk

The "NHS Next Stage Review: Our Vision for Primary and Community Care" outlined an intention to support the NHS and community clinicians in making radical change through the transforming community services programme (TCS). Copies of this publication are available in the Library. The clinical and service development workstream within TCS will focus on six clinical areas that will support the improvement of AHP services including physiotherapy for older and vulnerable people.

Social Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities have responsibility for social care services. [226278]

Phil Hope: There are 150 councils with social services responsibilities in England. They are:

Barking and Dagenham

Barnet

Barnsley

Bath and North East Somerset

Bedfordshire

Bexley

Birmingham

Blackburn

Blackpool
Bolton
Bournemouth
Bracknell Forest
Bradford
Brent
Brighton and Hove
Bristol
Bromley
Buckinghamshire
Bury
Calderdale
Cambridgeshire
Camden
Cheshire
City of London
Cornwall
Coventry
Croydon
Cumbria
Darlington
Derby
Derbyshire
Devon
Doncaster
Dorset
Dudley
Durham
Ealing
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex
Enfield
Essex
Gateshead
Gloucestershire
Greenwich
Hackney
Halton
Hammersmith and Fulham
Hampshire
Haringey
Harrow
Hartlepool
Havering
Herefordshire
Hertfordshire
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Isle of Wight
Isles of Scilly
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Kent
Kingston upon Hull
Kingston upon Thames
Kirklees
Knowsley
Lambeth
Lancashire
Leeds
Leicester
Leicestershire
Lewisham
Lincolnshire
Liverpool
Luton
Manchester
Medway Towns
Merton
Middlesbrough
Milton Keynes
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
Norfolk
Northamptonshire
North East Lincolnshire
North Lincolnshire
North Somerset
North Tyneside
Northumberland
North Yorkshire
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
Oldham
Oxfordshire
Peterborough
Plymouth
Poole
Portsmouth
Reading
Redbridge
Redcar and Cleveland
Richmond upon Thames
Rochdale
Rotherham
Rutland
Salford
Sandwell
Sefton
Sheffield
Shropshire
Slough
Solihull
Somerset
Southampton
Southend on Sea
South Gloucestershire
South Tyneside
Southwark
Staffordshire
St. Helens
Stockport
Stockton-on-Tees
Stoke-on-Trent
Suffolk
Sunderland
Surrey
Sutton

Swindon
Tameside
The Wrekin
Thurrock
Torbay
Tower Hamlets
Trafford
Wakefield
Walsall
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Warrington
Warwickshire
West Berkshire
Westminster
West Sussex
Wigan
Wiltshire
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wirral
Wokingham
Wolverhampton
Worcestershire
York.

Speech Therapy: Manpower

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the number of speech and language therapists working in the public service in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* England. [227237]

Ann Keen: Workforce planning is a matter for local national health service organisations. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and will commission the required number of training places to develop the workforce to meet those needs.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Animal Welfare: Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what teaching about animal welfare takes place in schools. [227738]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the new secondary curriculum, introduced from this September, there are opportunities for schools to teach about animal welfare. Citizenship helps young people to consider a wide range of political, social, ethical and moral problems. In Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE education), pupils take increasing responsibility for themselves, their choices and their behaviour.

Resources produced by the RSPCA and by the DCSF Growing Schools programme help teachers to explore animal welfare issues.

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls in year (i) 7, (ii) 8, (iii) 9, (iv) 10 and (v) 11 have received (A) fixed-term and (B) permanent exclusions in the last three years for which figures are available. [227963]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information on fixed period and permanent exclusions by national curriculum year group can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupil Referral Units: Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 498W on Pupil Referral units: Truancy, how many and what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female pupils received (i) temporary and (ii) permanent exclusions from pupil referral units in the school year 2006-07. [228120]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information on exclusions from pupil referral units in 2006-07 is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Databases

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what progress his Department has made on developing a central database to record pupils' examination results; and if he will make a statement; [227012]

(2) how much his Department has spent on developing a central database to record pupils' examination results; and if he will make a statement. [227013]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are currently three databases either established or in development for recording pupil achievement data at various levels: the National Pupil Database, Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP), and the Diploma Aggregation Service[1] (DAS).

The Department maintains the National Pupil Database, which contains pupils' test and examination results from key stage test results to GCSE and A-levels. This database, which was created in 2002, is the source of the data published in the Achievement and Attainment Tables.

The DIUS-led MIAP initiative supports data sharing in the education and training sector for the benefit of learners over 14 years old. One of the services that MIAP delivers is the Learner Record Service, which brings together participation and achievement information already collected, and presents it in an online learner record, which the learner can share with others when they wish. The first versions of the record are being trialled this autumn, and, subject to successful trials, the plan is to enable full access to the learner record in summer 2009.

The estimated cost of MIAP, including other key services, for the period January 2007 to January 2012 will be £53.6 million.

[1] The Diploma Aggregation Service is designed and managed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to enable the aggregation and awarding of Diplomas, and became operational on 1 September this year. The total cost of the Diploma Aggregation Service from April 2006 until 31 August 2008 is £18 million.

Schools: Energy

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many buildings of maintained schools use high energy efficiency pumps for *(a)* central heating, *(b)* air conditioning and *(c)* water boosting. [228380]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We do not hold information on maintained schools that have installed high energy efficiency pumps for *(a)* central heating, *(b)* air conditioning or *(c)* water boosting.

Investment in measures of this nature would typically be funded from budgets delegated to schools and local authorities. This information may be held at a local authority or school level. We are doing a great deal with new schools built under our strategic programmes to encourage the use of energy efficient equipment—detailed under

www.teachernet.gov.uk/carbontargets

Among other things, we have produced 'top 10 tips' for schools to help them save energy.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in England offer competitive sports as part of their curriculum. [227887]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All schools must provide competitive games activities, as this is a compulsory part of the physical education national curriculum.

Special Educational Needs

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure that changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal result in an increase in parental confidence in the special educational needs system; and if he will make a statement. [227579]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Subject to parliamentary approval, the new arrangements for tribunals, including the special educational needs and disability tribunal (SENDIST), will begin on 3 November. The Tribunals Service at the Ministry of Justice has consulted on the Rules for the new Health, Education and Social Care Chamber, of which SENDIST will become a part, and the Tribunals Procedures Committee has amended the Rules in the light of consultation responses from those with an interest in SEN. SENDIST has also established a special user group, on which the parent-led Independent Panel for Special Education Advice (IPSEA) is represented, to advise it on what is practical and appropriate for users in the new arrangements. The overriding principle informing the drafting of the Rules has been that they must be able to deal with all cases justly and fairly.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families, in association with the Tribunals Service, is currently conducting research into parental confidence in the SEN system of school provision, assessment, statements and appeal to SENDIST. This will reflect any parental concerns with the current operation of SENDIST. The Department has also commissioned Brian Lamb, the Chair of the Special Educational Consortium, to lead an inquiry into parental confidence in special educational provision, assessment and appeal. The Lamb Inquiry is due to report in September 2009. IPSEA is also represented on the Inquiry's Expert Advisers Group and through this and the Inquiry's Reference Group it will be able to hear whether the new arrangements for the tribunals are increasing parental confidence. The Department will continue to work closely with the Tribunals Service to address any concerns there are about the effect of the new tribunal arrangements on parental confidence in the SEN system.

Teachers: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value was of public sector pensions for teachers in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of providing such pensions in each year. [228431]

Jim Knight: The gross expenditure against the Teachers' Pension Scheme for the last five years are as follows:

	Gross (Cash basis, £ billion)
2002-03	4.205
2003-04	4.428
2004-05	4.747
2005-06	5.099
2006-07	5.471

The value of contributions received for each year are as follows:

		£000
	Employer contributions	*Employee contributions*
2002-03	1,423,301	1,066,384
2003-04	2,387,386	1,131,657
2004-05	2,559,263	1,161,826
2005-06	2,679,792	1,205,950
2006-07	2,781,716	1,269,720

The increase in the contribution rate on 1 April 2003 reflected a change in the way the scheme was financed with pensions increase (i.e. the inflation increases in the value of pensions in payment) now reflected in the total contribution rate paid by members and their employers rather than being met separately by the Exchequer.

The contribution rate for employers and employees during the period 2002-03 to 2006-07 are as follows:

		Percentage
Period	*Employer rate of charge*	*Employee rate of charge*
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	8.35	6

Period	Employer rate of charge	Percentage Employee rate of charge
1 April 2003 to 31 December 2006	13.5	6
1 January 2007 to present	14.1	6.4

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 22 August on discrimination by employers against people with mental illness. [225993]

Maria Eagle: The issue raised by the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's constituent was one relating to disability. The matter was referred to my right hon. Friend the Member for Sterling (Mrs. McGuire), then Minister responsible for disabled people, for a response. My right hon. Friend responded on the 26 September. I would be happy to provide a copy of this correspondence for the hon. Member at his request.

Prostitution: Human Trafficking

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she has taken pursuant to the Government Equalities Office's report of January 2008, Women Not For Sale. [227514]

Maria Eagle: The Minister for Women and Equality commissioned the report Women Not For Sale to highlight how advertisements for personal services fuel demand for women trafficked for sexual exploitation. Since the report was published the Minister for Women commissioned two rounds of questions into attitudes of the general public towards prostitution and visited the Poppy Project to talk to women who have been trafficked into sexual exploitation.

The Deputy Minister for Women has fed into the Home Office six month review of what more the Government can do to protect those involved in prostitution from exploitation. The review included visits to Sweden and Holland to look at how trafficking is being tackled internationally and will report later this year.

Further the Government intend to strengthen the response to those involved in sexual exploitation. The Home Secretary recently announced:

> An amendment to the offence of kerb-crawling, removing the need to prove that a person has acted persistently. This will ensure that kerb-crawlers can be prosecuted on a first offence.
>
> New powers to allow police to close brothels for a period of three months. At the moment, police can only close premises associated with prostitution if antisocial behaviour or Class A drugs are involved.

Alongside this the Government have decided to give greater powers to local authorities and local communities to control the opening and regulation of lap-dancing clubs. This means lap-dancing clubs would potentially no longer be licensed under the Licensing Act 2003.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House how many citizens' juries her Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227476]

Chris Bryant: A deliberative forum was held on the draft legislative programme which the Leader of the House of Commons attended on 20 October 2007. This was delivered by IPSOS Mori at a cost of £52,575 and was paid for by the Cabinet Office.

A total of 76 members of the public attended the event. Participants were asked to complete an exercise prior to the workshop to help get them thinking about the issues. On the day the event comprised of plenary voting sessions, using hand-held devices. Various presentations were given by IPSOS MORI researchers and detailed discussions were carried out within smaller groups.

During the day participants discussed public priorities for the Government's legislative programme for 2007-08, how people would like to be consulted on the annual legislative programme in the future and how best to consult people on a range of individual bills.

Members: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Leader of the House what the value was of public sector pensions for hon. Members in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of providing such pensions in each year. [228434]

Chris Bryant: The Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF) is a fully funded pension scheme whose income is derived from member contributions, Exchequer contributions and income from assets held.

Gross pension expenditure of the PCPF for the last five years is shown as follows. It includes pension benefits paid, payments to and on account of leavers, administrative expenses and investment management expenses. The figures for 2007-08 are provisional as the accounts for the year have not been finalised and are subject to change.

Gross pension expenditure

	£ million
2003-04	12.1
2004-05	12.2
2005-06	19.2
2006-07	16.6
2007-08	15.6

The contributions made to the PCPF by hon. Members from salary, including additional contributions for added years, and by the Exchequer from the House of Commons Members Estimate in each of the last five years are shown as follows.

		£ million
	Employee contribution	Exchequer contribution
2003-04	3.6	9.8
2004-05	4.0	10.0
2005-06	4.1	10.1
2006-07	4.2	11.4
2007-08	4.3	12

NORTHERN IRELAND

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226965]

Mr. Woodward: I hosted four Christmas receptions attended by over 1,400 representatives from the criminal justice, policing, military, charity and community sectors across Northern Ireland. The total cost was £32,105.41. I also attend external engagements at Christmas time.

It is not possible to provide details on external Christmas functions that officials from my Department and Executive agencies attended, as this information would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226809]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Prison Service uses recruitment consultants to run aptitude tests and assessment centre selection. In other parts of the Department, recruitment consultants are used only when recruitment competitions fail to produce suitable candidates or where executive searches are required to identify suitable applicants. These consultants are selected in line with NIO procurement policy.

The following tables provide details of fees paid to consultants and advertising costs in the NIO for each of the years requested.

Table (a) (i) NIO core Department—use of consultants

	Consultants used	Consultant fees (£)
2003-04	Capita and Penna Consulting	5,483.43
2004-05	Capita and Penna Consulting	12,277.85
2005-06	Parity Recruitment	6,286.25
2006-07	Parity Recruitment, Veredus and Hayes Recruitment	42,037.51
2007-08	—	—

Table (a) (ii) NIO core Department—recruitment advertising costs

	Advertising costs (£)
2003-04	8,063.14
2004-05	182,414.70
2005-06	76,844.74
2006-07	49,105.27
2007-08	23,952.65

Table (b) (i) NIO Executive agencies—use of consultants

	Consultants used	Consultant fees (£)
2003-04	—	—
2004-05	Grafton	36,267.98
2005-06	Parity Recruitment and Grafton	52,225.18
2006-07	Parity Recruitment	31,633.71
2007-08	Grafton	70,553.46

Table (b) (ii) NIO Executive agencies—recruitment advertising costs

	Advertising costs (£)
2003-04	120,799.70
2004-05	189,127.91
2005-06	107,886.66
2006-07	189,461.15
2007-08	207,270.82

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226892]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has received 87 named day questions for the current Session (as at 8 October).

Of these, 40 (46 per cent.) were answered on the due date. Of the 47 questions that were late, 43 (91 per cent.) had a due date that allowed two sitting days or fewer to provide an answer.

Homophobic Crime

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints against the Police Service of Northern Ireland's handling of cases of homophobic crime were recorded in each of the last 12 months. [228394]

Paul Goggins: Dealing with such complaints is the operational responsibility of the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. I have asked the Chief Executive to reply to the hon. Member directly, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the *Official Report* and the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many cases of sectarianism within the police force were reported within the Northern Ireland Police Service in each of the last 10 years; and how many officers *(a)* were found to have been sectarian, *(b)* were dismissed as a result and *(c)* received disciplinary action as a result in each year; [227394]

(2) what definition the Police Service of Northern Ireland uses of institutionalised homophobia; [227395]

(3) what percentage of recruits entering the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years completed their full probationary period; [227397]

(4) what definition of institutionalised sectarianism the Police Service of Northern Ireland uses; [227398]

(5) what definition of institutionalised racism the Police Service of Northern Ireland uses; [227399]

(6) how many cases of racism within the Northern Ireland Police Service were reported in each of the last 10 years; and how many officers *(a)* were found to have been racist, *(b)* were dismissed as a result and *(c)* received disciplinary action as a result in each year; [227402]

(7) what steps the Police Service of Northern Ireland has taken to use social networking sites to encourage reporting of homophobic hate crimes and incidents; and if he will make a statement; [227415]

(8) what percentage of Northern Ireland police recruits identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender in each of the last five years; and what percentage of those recruits completed their full probationary period. [227419]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report.*

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of recruits to the Police Service of Northern Ireland who come from ethnic minorities completed their probationary period in each of the last five years. [227414]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report.*

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Homosexuality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of homophobia within the Northern Ireland Police Service were reported in each of the last 10 years; and how many officers *(a)* were found to have been homophobic, *(b)* were dismissed as a result and *(c)* received disciplinary action as a result. [227403]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report.*

Prosecution Rates

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what the prosecution rate was for racist hate crime detected by the Police Service for Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; [227421]

(2) what the prosecution rate was for homophobic hate crime detected by the Police Service for Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [227422]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the *Official Report* and the Library of the House.

Rape: Telephone Services

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what freephone 24-hour telephone lines exist for victims of rape and sexual assault in Northern Ireland. [227223]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office—in partnership with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive—jointly fund a free phone 24 hour helpline (0800 917 1414) for victims of domestic violence which is managed by Women's Aid Federation.

A number of other organisations provide a combination of 24 hour telephone and messaging services to other victims of sexual violence. Childline operate a 24 hour free phone service while those provided by the Nexus Institute, Samaritans, Victim Support and out of hours health services incur either low or normal call rates.

The recently published Northern Ireland Regional Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy, jointly developed by DHSSPS and NIO, contains a commitment to assess the need for a regional 24 hour helpline within the context of proposals to develop the Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Press

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1003W, (1) how many copies of PR Week the Cabinet Office subscribes to; [222998]

(2) how many copies of PR Week are purchased by the Cabinet Office each week. [223011]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [221973]

Mr. Watson: My right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has the use of Dorneywood as an official residence. The Chancellor and the Trustees have made Dorneywood available to other Ministers to use for official engagements. Since September 2007, the Commons Chief Whip, the Leader of the House of Lords and Treasury Ministers have made use of Dorneywood for official engagements.

Fertility

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average fertility rate in *(a)* Leeds West, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* the UK was in each five year period since 1978. [228230]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Daren Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what the average fertility rate in *(a)* Leeds West, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* the UK was in each five-year period since 1978. (228230)

The table below provides the average Total Fertility Rate for the UK, Leeds Metropolitan District and Leeds West parliamentary constituency for each five-year period, where possible.

The average Total Fertility Rates are calculated using live births from the birth registration system and population estimates. All figures are based on current geographical boundaries and for Leeds Metropolitan District are available for 1982 onwards. Population estimates by parliamentary constituency are only available from 2001; hence fertility rates for Leeds West are shown for 2001 onwards.

Average total fertility rate for UK, Leeds Metropolitan District and Leeds West parliamentary constituency: five-year periods, 1978-2007

	Average Total Fertility Rate[1]		
	UK	*Leeds Metropolitan District*	*Leeds West*[2] *(parliamentary constituency)*
1978-82	1.82	1.6[3]	—
1983-87	1.78	1.72	—
1988-92	1.81	1.75	—
1993-97	1.73	1.60	—
1998-2002	1.66	1.48	1.37[4]
2003-07[5]	1.80	1.54	1.41

[1] The average Total Fertility Rate for each five-year period has been calculated by averaging the Total Fertility Rate for each individual year within the period.
[2] The Total Fertility Rates for Leeds West have been calculated using population estimates by parliamentary constituency which have been published as 'Experimental Statistics'.
[3] Total Fertility Rate for Leeds Metropolitan District for 1982 only.
[4] Average Total Fertility Rate for Leeds West for 2001-2002 only.
[5] The 2007 Total Fertility Rates for the UK, Leeds Metropolitan District and Leeds West parliamentary constituency are provisional.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total cost was to the Exchequer of all quangos in 2007-08. [227885]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the cost and expenditure of non-departmental public bodies is published annually by the Cabinet Office. Information for 2006-07 was published in March and copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2007-08 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready.

Unemployment: Fife

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people living in *(a)* Dunfermline and West Fife constituency and *(b)* Fife were unemployed in each of the last 12 months. [228017]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people living in (a) Dunfermline and West Fife constituency and (b) Fife were unemployed in each of the last 12 months. (228017)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies using the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions, and for Local Authorities using model based estimates.

The APS and model based estimates are available only for rolling 4 quarter periods. The latest available estimates cover the 12 months ending September 2007 and December 2007 and are provided in Table 1.

Table 2 attached shows the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in Dunfermline and West Fife constituency and Fife for each of the last twelve months.

These figures along with a wide range of other labour market data for parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are also published on the Office for National Statistics' Nomis® website: www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1: Number of persons unemployed[1] *resident in (a) Dunfermline and West Fife constituency and (b) Fife*

		Thousand
12 months ending:	*Dunfermline and West Fife*	*Fife*
September 2007	3	11
December 2007[2]	****2	***11

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV)(percentage) Statistical robustness
* 0 ≤ CV<5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 ≤ CV<10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 ≤ CV<20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source:

Annual Population Survey/Model based estimates.

Table 2: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in (a) Dunfermline and West Fife constituency and (b) Fife

	Dunfermline and West Fife	*Fife*
October 2007	1,282	5,620
November 2007	1,301	5,613
December 2007	1,318	5,729
January 2008	1,422	6,159
February 2008	1,487	6,386
March 2008	1,459	6,246
April 2008	1,454	6,128
May 2008	1,443	6,104

Table 2: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in (a) Dunfermline and West Fife constituency and (b) Fife

	Dunfermline and West Fife	Fife
June 2008	1,488	6,203
July 2008	1,566	6,642
August 2008	1,678	7,044
September 2008	1,587	6,635

Source:
Job Centre Plus Administrative System

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arctic

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what international meetings to discuss claims over the Arctic he plans to attend in the next 12 months. [226551]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans in this regard. None the less, the UN takes an active interest in many Arctic issues and engages with Arctic states, both bilaterally and in international forums. For example, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials attend meetings of the Artic Council at which the UK is a state observer, and will take part in the next meeting in Norway in November.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of claims that Rwandan troops are continuing to operate within the Democratic Republic of Congo. [226930]

Gillian Merron: At present we are not aware of any evidence that the Rwandan military has entered the territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

We continue to monitor events in eastern DRC closely. We encourage the Governments of the DRC and Rwanda to co-operate to resolve threats to regional security.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on entertainment in each of the last five years. [219258]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to ensuring that all expenditure, including that on entertainment, is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [216112]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to protecting the health, welfare and productivity of its staff. Our occupational stress policy provides guidance for staff and managers on recognising and dealing with stress and on reducing the causes of stress in the workplace. We provide further support through a team of welfare officers, referral to our occupational health service and access to a 24/7 confidential Employee Assistance programme.

The average duration for single periods of sickness absence for UK civil servants employed by the FCO and by Wilton Park, an Executive Agency of the FCO, where stress or mental health illness has been given as the reason for the absence is set out in the following table.

		Number of days
Financial year	*FCO*	*Wilton Park*
2005-06	18.2	12.3
2006-07	18.6	29.6
2007-08	26.4	62.5

The FCO does not hold records of staff sickness absence before 2005. Nor does it have access to the sickness absence records of non-departmental public bodies. Sickness absence figures for FCO Services, which became a Trading Fund on 1 April 2008, are included in the FCO total.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [216113]

Gillian Merron: The average duration for single periods of sickness absence taken by UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Wilton Park, an Executive Agency of the FCO, is set out in the following table.

		Number of days
Financial year	*FCO*	*Wilton Park*
2005-06	4.2	15.5
2006-07	3.3	15.6
2007-08	3.8	15.0

The FCO does not hold records of staff sickness absences before 2005. Nor does it have access to the sickness absence records of non-departmental public bodies. Sickness absence figures for FCO Services, which became a Trading Fund on 1 April 2008, are included in the FCO total.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [216114]

Gillian Merron: The following table sets out the number of UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Wilton Park, an Executive Agency of the FCO, who gave stress and mental illness as reasons for sickness absence and the percentage they represent of the total workforce.

Financial year	*FCO*	*Wilton Park*
2005-06		
Number of staff	137	6
Percentage of workforce	2.3	8.1
2006-07		
Number of staff	128	10
Percentage of workforce	2.1	13.5
2007-08		
Number of staff	119	10
Percentage of workforce	2.0	13.5

FCO sickness absence records do not distinguish clearly between mental health and stress-related absences. The FCO does not hold records of staff sickness absence before 2005. Nor does it have access to the sickness absence records of non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the annual staffing expenditure of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [216116]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pays staff on sick leave their normal salary for up to a maximum of six months' sick absence during any rolling period of 12 months. After that, the FCO pays 50 per cent. of salary for up to a maximum of six months during any rolling period of four years or less. If the absence continues beyond this period, staff cease to receive any salary.

The following table sets out the total sum paid by the FCO and its Executive Agency, Wilton Park, to UK civil servant employees, who were absent for health reasons, over the past three years.

Financial year	*Amount paid to staff on sick absence (£)*	*Percentage of annual staffing costs*
2005-06	2,412,781	0.8
2006-07	2,703,879	0.9
2007-08	2,254,954	0.8

The FCO does not hold records of staff sickness absence before 2005.

Diplomatic Service: Equality

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK *(a)* ambassadors and *(b)* high commissioners are (i) female and (ii) from an ethnic minority background. [224821]

Gillian Merron: Twenty-two Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff currently serving as Heads of Mission overseas (including ambassadors, high commissioners and governors of British overseas territories) are women. Four Heads of Mission have recorded that they are from an ethnic minority (British minority ethnic).

Diplomatic Service: Security

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many requests he has received from HM ambassadors for an increase in security staff since 2000; and how many such requests he granted. [223706]

Gillian Merron: It is not Foreign and Commonwealth Office practice to comment on security at its overseas posts.

The FCO takes the security of its staff extremely seriously. We maintain a specialist team of overseas security advisers who regularly review all security arrangements.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in his (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220187]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the response given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 651-57W.

Ethiopia: Eritrea

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Ethiopian authorities to accept the final and binding verdict of the International Ethiopian Eritrean Boundary Commission and withdraw its forces from the disputed areas. [222672]

Gillian Merron: The UK's policy towards the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute is based on three principles: to avoid any return to war, which would be unacceptable; for the border to be demarcated; and for the parties to normalise their relations. Ethiopia and Eritrea should agree a way forward to allow demarcation to proceed and for a normalisation process to begin, as set out in the Algiers Agreements of June and December 2000, to which both Ethiopia and Eritrea are signatories.

We have set out this policy to both Ethiopia and Eritrea, including in November 2007 when my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin. The former Minister for the Middle East, my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells), most recently discussed the border situation when he met Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in June and the Eritrean ambassador in July. In addition, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials continually reiterate these messages to both the Ethiopian and Eritrean ambassadors to London and to their interlocutors in the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea in Addis Ababa and Asmara respectively.

Even with the termination of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) on 31 July the UNSC made clear the Algiers Agreements remain in force. The UN Secretary-General will continue to monitor the situation and consult both parties in an effort to (1) achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement of their border dispute, and (2) help the countries to normalise their relations.

We will continue to pursue the policy above with our international partners, including through the efforts of the United Nations with the parties, to which UK efforts are closely aligned and to which we give our support.

Iran: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on commercial relations with Iran of changes in staffing levels in the commercial section of the British Embassy in Tehran. [222689]

Bill Rammell: UK policy is to support UN and EU sanctions by making clear to those in the Iranian regime that it cannot be business as usual as long as they fail to comply with UN Security Council resolutions and co-operate fully with the International Atomic Energy Authority. We are prepared to risk any impact the reduction in trade promotion activities may have on British business with Iran in order to maintain pressure on the Iranian regime over its nuclear programme. It is too early to judge the effect that these changes may have on our wider commercial relationship with Iran. We look forward to the day when we can return to business as usual, to the benefit of the UK and Iran. But a decision to reach that state rests with the Iranian regime. It is of note that trade between the UK and Iran fell by 8 per cent. over the first four months of this year.

Kosovo: Natural Resources

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the product of the Gazivoda Reservoir in Kosovo is available without impediment to all communities in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [224708]

Caroline Flint: The Gazivoda reservoir supplies Northern and Central Kosovo with water for agricultural and industrial use. It also supplies drinking water to the cities of Mitrovica/Mitrovicë, Zvecan/Zveçan, Skënderaj/Srbica and Vushtrri/Vucitrn among others. Water is available to all communities in the area served by the reservoir without impediment.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to assist Kosovo in securing greater recognition of its status by the international community. [222822]

Caroline Flint: So far, 51 countries have recognised the Republic of Kosovo including 22 EU member states and all of the G7. We have been engaging actively in both bilateral discussions and multilateral forums, working closely with and alongside the Government of Kosovo, and with like-minded international partners to encourage further recognitions. We have also engaged with the Government of Kosovo to help them take forward their efforts on recognition.

Switzerland: International Cooperation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations were made to the Swiss Government by the UK authorities in 1993, consequent on the arrest in Switzerland of Wouter Basson, to persuade the Swiss authorities to make him available to UK authorities for questioning; and if he will make a statement. [225083]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no record of any representations having been made.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received regarding Lieutenant Ramathan Magara of the Uganda Army and the shooting of three people at Dr Kizza Besigye's election rally in February 2006; and if he will make a statement. [224248]

Gillian Merron: We are aware of various incidents during the 2006 election campaign in which firearms were used to disperse crowds. We have received reports that Lieutenant Ramathan Magara was on remand for 365 days, after which he was released on bail. The case against him is still pending. Investigating incidents such as this is the responsibility of the local authorities.

In the course of our regular dialogue with the Government of Uganda, we continue to press them on all aspects of good governance, the rule of law and engaging with the opposition.

Western Sahara: United Nations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the re-appointment of Peter van Walsum as UN special representative on the Western Sahara. [225438]

Bill Rammell: The Government welcomed the efforts made by Peter van Walsum, the former UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Western Sahara, to find a solution to the dispute. The appointment of personal envoys and special representatives is a matter for the UN Secretary-General, and we respect his independence in making such appointments. We look forward to working with the new personal envoy once he/she has been appointed.

Wouter Basson

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will direct the relevant authorities to investigate the claim made by Wouter Basson during his trial in South Africa in July 2000 that he was able to purchase defence software developed in the UK through colleagues at Porton Down; and if he will make a statement. [227352]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I have been asked to reply.

I believe that this question relates to a statement made by Dr. Wouter Basson, during the Truth and Reconciliation Council hearings in July 2001, that a colleague was paid to obtain a NATO-approved Hazard Prediction Software, which utilised a data base initially developed at Porton Down. Officials at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down have reviewed the claim and have been unable to identify any evidence to support the allegation that this software was obtained from staff at Porton Down.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Newcastle-under-Lyme

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeship places in the construction industry he expects to be offered in *(a)* Newcastle-under-Lyme and *(b)* North Staffordshire in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [226605]

Mr. Simon: The latest fully audited data that we have are for the 2006-07 academic year. Figures are not directly available for the North Staffordshire. Figures have been provided for the Staffordshire local authority.

Apprenticeships are demand-led and employer responsive; therefore the number of apprenticeship places available is determined by the number of places employers are able to offer and subject to learner demand. That is why, in terms of monitoring performance, we focus on the number of people who actually start on an apprenticeship programme.

"World-class Apprenticeships" confirmed our commitment to stimulate a greater supply of apprenticeship places with employers. This is a key element of the remit of the new National Apprenticeship Service and its National Vacancy Matching Service which will help employers advertise apprenticeship vacancies and enable prospective apprentices to apply for them online.

Table 1 shows apprenticeship starts for 2006-07 for Staffordshire and Newcastle-Under-Lyme, and nationally.

Table 2 lists the apprenticeship starts in Staffordshire in 2006-07 by Sector Framework of Learning.

Table 3 lists the apprenticeship starts in Newcastle-Under-Lyme by Sector Framework of Learning.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 by geographical area

Area	*Starts*
Nationally	184,000
Staffordshire[1]	3,590
Newcastle-Under-Lyme[2]	450

[1] Staffordshire local authority based on learner's home postcode.

[2] Newcastle-Under-Lyme parliamentary constituency based on learner's home postcode.

Note:

Figures include apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships, and a very small number of higher level apprenticeships.

Source:

ILR Work-Based Learning Data

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 in Staffordshire local authority by sector framework of learning

Sector framework of learning	*Starts*
Accountancy	110
Active Leisure and Learning	60
Agricultural Crops and Livestock	10
Amenity Horticulture	30
Animal Care	[1]—
Automotive Industry	10
Aviation	[1]—
Barbering	[1]—
Building Services Engineering Technicians	[1]—
Business Administration	340
Children's Care Learning and Development	230
Communications Technologies (Telecoms)	10
Construction	400
Contact Centres	110
Customer Service	330
Dental Nursing	20
Driving Goods Vehicles	10
Electrical and Electronic Servicing	[1]—
Electricity Industry	[1]—
Electrotechnical	110
Emergency Fire Service Operations	[1]—
Engineering	180
Engineering Construction	[1]—
Equine Industry	20
Farriery	[1]—
Fencing	[1]—
Floristry	[1]—
Food and Drink Manufacturing Operations	[1]—
Furniture Industry	[1]—
Gas Industry	20
Glass Industry	[1]—
Hairdressing	270
Health and Social Care	140
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	10
Hospitality and Catering	360
Industrial Applications	40
IT Services and Development	20
IT User	60
Land-based Service Engineering	10
Mail Services	[illegible]—
Management	60
Meat and Poultry Processing	10

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 in Staffordshire local authority by sector framework of learning

Sector framework of learning	*Starts*
Optical Advisor	[1]—
Pharmacy Technicians	[1]—
Plumbing	100
Polymer Processing and Signmaking	[1]—
Printing	10
Property Services	[1]—
Retail	160
Security Industry	[1]—
Sporting Excellence	10
Storage and Warehousing	40
Teaching Assistants	[1]—
Textiles	[1]—
Transport Engineering and Maintenance	[1]—
Travel and Tourism Services Leisure and Business	30
Trees and Timber	[1]—
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	20
Vehicle Fitting	10
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	160
Vehicle Parts Operations	10
Vehicle Sales	[1]—
Veterinary Nursing	20
Wholesale, Distribution, Warehousing and Storage	40
Total	3,590

[1] Represents a number less than 10.

Notes:

1. Staffordshire local authority based on learner's home postcode.
2. Figures include apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships, and a very small number of higher level apprenticeships.
3. Figures may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source:

ILR Work-Based Learning Data

Table 3: Apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 in Newcastle-Under-Lyme parliamentary constituency by sector framework of learning

Sector framework of learning	*Starts*
Accountancy	20
Active Leisure and Learning	[1]—
Agricultural Crops and Livestock	[1]—
Amenity Horticulture	[1]—
Animal Care	[1]—
Automotive Industry	[1]—
Building Services Engineering Technicians	[1]—
Business Administration	40
Children's Care Learning and Development	30
Construction	40
Contact Centres	50
Customer Service	50
Dental Nursing	[1]—
Electrotechnical	10
Engineering	20
Equine Industry	[1]—
Furniture Industry	[1]—
Gas Industry	[1]—
Hairdressing	30
Health and Social Care	10
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	[1]—
Hospitality and Catering	30
Industrial Applications	10
IT Services and Development	[1]—
IT User	20
Management	10
Plumbing	10
Retail	20
Storage and Warehousing	[1]—
Textiles	[1]—
Travel and Tourism Services Leisure and Business	[1]—
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	[1]—
Vehicle Fitting	[1]—
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	20
Vehicle Parts Operations	[1]—
Wholesale, Distribution, Warehousing and Storage	[1]—
Total	450

[1] Represents a number less than 10.

Note:

1. Newcastle-Under-Lyme parliamentary constituency based on learner's home postcode.
2. Figures include apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships, and a very small number of higher level apprenticeships.
3. Figures may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source:

ILR Work-Based Learning Data

Education Maintenance Allowance: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students in West Chelmsford constituency are waiting to receive education maintenance allowance payments. [228036]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Educational Institutions: Bank Services

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the financial exposure of further and higher education institutions in terms of deposits and investments in Icelandic banks and financial institutions. [227794]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement, 'Universities - Deposits in Icelandic Banks', made by the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on 14 October. My right hon. Friend told the House that the Higher Education Funding Council for England had identified 12 universities which held deposits with Icelandic banks that have recently entered into administration. The total amount deposited was around £77 million. We will, of course, update the House if there are any significant changes to this figure.

Officials from HM Treasury are engaging with the affected universities and HEFCE about their concerns. However, it should be noted that HEFCE has concluded that no university is at risk as a result of its exposure to Icelandic banks. Certainly, no university faces a level of exposure that would raise questions about its continuing solvency.

The Learning and Skills Council has been in contact with further education colleges to ascertain deposit and investment exposure to Icelandic financial institutions.

Information received to date suggests that two further education colleges have some limited exposure but that there is no immediate impact on the solvency position of further education colleges. The LSC is continuing to keep the situation under review and keeping Ministers informed of the implications.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent on widening participation in higher education in each year since 1997; on what schemes that money has been spent; and how much will be spent in each of the next three years. [227523]

Mr. Lammy: This Government remain fully committed to widening access to higher education for people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Widening access requires long-term investment and change across the higher education system. We have reformed student finance, reintroducing grants and raising the income threshold at which repayments start. No one is required to pay a contribution to their higher education up-front. These reforms, together with Aimhigher, have been instrumental in bringing about progress. The proportion of UK domiciled, young, full time, first degree entrants to English higher education institutions who were from lower socio-economic groups rose from 27.9 per cent. in 2002-03 to 29.8 per cent. in 2006-07.

Expenditure from 1997 on widening access is as follows:

£ million

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Aimhigher and predecessors[1] [2]	—	—	—	—	50	70	120	136	102	87	80	85.5	89.5	89.5
Additional HE summer schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	[7]—
Regional projects and other early activity[3]	2	3	10	12	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Student support[4]	2,363	2,326	1,761	1,507	1,213	1,096	1,084	1,410	1,411	1,634	1,962	2,252	2,461	2,998
Widening participation allocation[5]	—	—	20	31	37	48	266	273	284	345	356	363	—	—
University bursaries and outreach[6]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	96	[8]—	—	—	—
Total	2,365	2,329	1,791	1,550	1,295	1,209	1,460	1,819	1,797	2,162	—	—	—	—

[1] The unified Aimhigher programme was introduced in 2004. Predecessor programmes were Excellence Challenge, funded by the then Department for Education and Skills, and Partnerships for Progression, funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Aimhigher is funded jointly by DIUS, HEFCE, the LSC and the Department for Health. Includes money for Aimhigher Associates (£3 million in 2008-09, £9 million in 2009-10, and £9 million in 2010-11).

[2] Excellence Challenge included Opportunity Bursaries. These were grants to eligible people from lower income families and were worth £2,000 over three years. From September 2001, 26,000 such bursaries were made available at a total cost of £37 million. With the wider reintroduction of grants in 2006, the Opportunity Bursary scheme was withdrawn.

[3] Funded by HEFCE.

[4] Includes student loans RAB charge, fee loans, student support grants, Maintenance Grant, HE Grant, grants for vulnerable students, tuition fee grants, grants for part-time students and access funds and bursaries. The student loans RAB charge estimates the future cost to Government of subsidising and writing off the student loans issued in that year; it does not represent the amount of cash lent to students, which has risen each year since the introduction of student loans. Figures for 1997-2007 are outturn; those for 2007-08 is estimated outturn; and those for 2008-11 are plans.

[5] These figures also include the allocations for improving the retention of non-traditional students, and to widen access and improve provision for disabled students. The figure for 2008-09 is provisional.

[6] The Office for Fair Access forecasts that around £300 million annually will be spent by higher education providers on bursaries and scholarships benefiting students from tow-income and other under-represented groups by the academic year 2008-09.

[7] Not yet confirmed.

[8] Not yet available.

Note:

In 2001-04, Aimhigher contributed £10 million a year towards the widening participation allocation. The figure given as the total for each of these years is therefore less than the sum of the parts to avoid double counting.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent progress has been made in widening participation in higher education. [227793]

Mr. Lammy: This Government are totally committed to widening participation in higher education (HE), both for economic reasons and reasons of social justice. HE offers significant earnings and other benefits to individuals and we want to see a broader range of people to be able and willing to take advantage of these benefits.

There is convincing evidence that we are making steady progress, for example:

(a) in the 1997-98 academic year, 81.0 per cent. of young (to age 21) full-time first degree entrants to HE came from state schools. By the 2006-7 academic year, this had risen to 87.2 per cent.—a rise of 6.2 per cent.;

(b) in the 2002-3 academic year, 27.9 per cent. of young (to age 21) full-time first degree entrants to HE came from lower socio-economic classes. By the 2006-7 academic year, this had risen to 29.8 per cent.—a rise of 1.9 per cent. A different method of identifying social class groupings was in place between 1997-98 and 2001-2, but this showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. over that period—from 24.7 per cent. to 25.5 per cent.;

(c) in the 1997-98 academic year, 11.4 per cent. of young (to age 21) full-time first degree entrants to HE came from low participation neighbourhoods. By the 2005-6 academic year this had risen to 13.5 per cent.—a rise of 2.1 per cent. A new way of identifying low participation neighbourhoods was introduced from 2006-7; and

(d) in the 2002-3 academic year, 44.1 per cent. of 18-20 year olds from higher socio-economic classes participated in HE, compared with 17.5 per cent. of those from lower socio-economic classes—a gap of 26.5 per cent. By 2006-7, the participation rate of higher socio-economic classes had fallen to 39.5 per cent and that of lower socio-economic classes had risen to 19.0 per cent—reducing the gap by six percentage points to 20.5 per cent.

But we are not complacent, it is clear that issues affecting HE participation patterns require long-term address. We continue to help and encourage a range of people to enter HE through for example

(a) The Aimhigher programme, to raise the attainment levels of young people and their aspirations towards higher education;

(b) Aimhigher Associates, announced by the Secretary of State in April, from this autumn a pathfinder will see undergraduates mentoring pupils from Y9 onwards to support them and encourage them through key transition points and into HE, including with the UCAS application process. The scheme will roll out nationally in 2009; and

(c) the HE recommendations to the National council for Educational Excellence—announced on 3 October 2008, these recommendations include: Primary schools should ensure older children have the opportunity to visit a university campus. Government support the recommendations and will work with the sector to Implement them.

Small Businesses: Innovation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to increase the use of innovation in small business. [227369]

Mr. Lammy: We are introducing a number of measures aimed at increasing the level of innovation within small business. These include:

Increased support for business innovation through the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) including funding for Knowledge Transfer Partnerships—which will double in number over the next three years—and support for UK engagement in the Eurostars scheme for research performing SMEs;

Refocusing of the Small Business Research Initiative is making good progress. The reformed model will aim to develop hard technologies and innovative products which better meet the future needs of the buyer Departments and, at the same time, drive an increase in demand for R and D services from early-stage, high-technology, SMEs by supporting them through a critical stage of their development and future growth;

Over the English regions, at least 500 businesses will be given an innovation voucher, as a means for smaller firms to collaborate with knowledge-based institutions, with the aspiration that this will increase to at least 1,000 per year by 2011 as the vouchers are demonstrated to be effective for business;

The rate of tax relief under the SME R and D tax credits scheme was increased significantly from 1 August to support and incentivise SMEs to undertake more R and D and the scheme was broadened to include companies with between 250 and 449 employees;

DIUS's grant for research and development, delivered by RDAs, provides support of up to £250,000 to help small and medium-sized businesses to research and develop technologically innovative products and processes and, between January and June 2008, 120 businesses were offered funding of £10 million through the scheme; and

The FE Specialisation and Innovation Fund will build the capacity of the FE sector to support businesses to raise their innovation potential through knowledge transfer and we are encouraging FE providers to showcase their expertise in implementing innovative business solutions, particularly for SMEs, through a number of pathfinder projects.

In addition, we have also published a Higher Level Skills Strategy that provides an overall framework for driving up the high level skills that contribute to innovation in business. We are also encouraging more HEIs to develop and offer high level programmes for management and leadership as part of the new management and leadership funding for SMEs under the Train to Gain Plan for Growth.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Finance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant in aid was received by Arts Council England in each year since 1997-98 in 2007-08 prices; and what such grants were, excluding funds for Creative Partnerships. [223886]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been provided by Arts Council England and is set out in the table.

Heads		*1997-98*	*2007-08*
Core	Advocacy and Communications—Communications	8	49
	Advocacy and Communications—Enquiries	—	10
	Advocacy and Communications—Events	—	1
	Advocacy and Communications—Marketing	2	3
	Advocacy and Communications—Media Relations	7.5	4.5
	Advocacy and Communications—Public Affairs	13	2.5
	Advocacy and Communications—Publishing	—	2
	Arts—Combined Arts	24.5	11.5
	Arts—Crafts	12.5	4

Heads		*1997-98*	*2007-08*
	Arts—Dance	20.5	18
	Arts—Drama	24	—
	Arts—Film, Video and Broadcasting	33	10
	Arts—Literature	22	24.5
	Arts—Music	24	15
	Arts—Performing Arts	31.5	45
	Arts—Touring	12.5	0.5
	Arts—Visual Arts	40.5	46.5
	CEO	34	6
	CEO—Chairman's Office	2	—
	CEO—Regional ED's Office	—	19
	Policy and Research	7	7
	Resource development	49	119
	Resource Development—Arts and Diversity	2.5	42
	Resource Development—Business Assessment and Planning	8	8
	Resource Development—Education and Training	19	19
	Resource Development—Lottery	87.5	14
	Resources—Directorate	22	9
	Resources—Finance	36	56
	Resources—HR	11	15.5
	Resources—IT	17.5	18
	Resources—Legal Services	—	3
	Resources—Office Services	28.5	18.5
Core total		599.5	601
Specific project	2012 Project	—	3
	Arts Award	—	1
	Arts Training South West	3	—
	Artsmark	—	3
	Commissions North	—	1
	Commissions North	—	2
	Contemporary Music Network	—	3
	Creative Industries	—	4
	Creative Partnerships	—	142
	Cultural leadership programme	—	4
	Decibel	—	9
	Own Art	—	3
	Public Art South West	2	2
	Schools Arts Projects	—	1
	Take it away	—	1
	Young People at Risk	—	2
	Young People's Theatre	—	1
Specific project total		5	182
Grand total		604.5	783

BBC: Finance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will reduce the level of public funding paid to the BBC to reflect the fine imposed by Ofcom for misleading audiences by fake phone-ins; and if he will make a statement. [227798]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: This is a matter for Ofcom and the BBC.

Broadcasting: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department are employed to work on matters relating to broadcasting. [226003]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: The number of people employed on matters relating to broadcasting varies depending on requirements. As at 14 October 2008, there were 23.6 full-time equivalent staff working on matters related to broadcasting, not including staff carrying out supporting duties.

Circuses

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to include tickets for circuses in his Department's proposed Free Ticket Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [226824]

Andy Burnham: Government funding for the free theatre initiative is open to all theatres offering live arts performances, with priority being given to publicly subsidized venues. If a participating theatre offers a circus-type production, this could be included in the offer.

Arts Council England has been allocated an additional £2.5 million to run the programme on behalf of the Department and has invited venues to submit proposals for inclusion in the programme by 14 November. The initiative will be launched in February 2009 with a week of theatre-based activities and free tickets will be available up to the end of March 2011.

Our aim is to encourage young people up to the age of 26 to enjoy a free theatre performance and in so doing help build the audiences of the future. This initiative complements our policies on free museums and, more recently, free swimming.

Cultural Heritage: Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 696-97W, on cultural heritage: pay, how much his Department spent on salaries for staff working on heritage in each year since 1997 *(a)* in 2007-08 prices and *(b)* as a percentage of total expenditure on staff salaries by his Department. [227208]

Barbara Follett: The table lists the departmental expenditure on salaries of staff responsible for heritage issues such as quality of architectural design and identification and conservation of the historic environment *(a)* in 2007-08 prices and *(b)* as a percentage of the Department's total staff salaries.

Financial year	*Heritage staff salaries in 2007 prices (£)*	*As a percentage of total salaries*
2007-08	1,124,157	4.31
2006-07	1,364,310	5.33
2005-06	1,353,348	5.77
2004-05	1,235,931	5.78
2003-04	1,327,530	6.41
2002-03	1,277,922	6.49
2001-02	1,334,472	6.33
2000-01	1,363,659	5.39
1999-2000	1,495,573	6.05
1998-97	1,600,812	6.89
1997-98	1,440,411	10.50

Culture: Planning

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the Cultural Planning Toolkit training to commence. [225691]

Barbara Follett: Information from Culture East Midlands is that training will commence after the tools and guidance have been launched at the end of March 2009.

Departmental Income

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's total annual *(a)* administrative and *(b)* programme income was in each year since 1997. [225708]

Barbara Follett: The Department's administrative and programme income in each year since 1997 is shown in the table. The latter is analysed by the Department's two funding allocation streams, Request for Resources 1 (RfR1) and Request for Resources 2 (RfR2). RfR1 relates to improving the quality of life through cultural and sporting activities, whereas RfR2 refers to broadening access to a rich and varied cultural and sporting life through home broadcasting and other activities.

£000

	Administrative income	*Programme income RfR1*	*Programme income RfR2*
2007-08	1,285	26,237	2,861,902
2006-07	1,520	23,447	2,739,160
2005-06	2,486	32,598	2,624,468
2004-05	2,151	15,349	2,502,111
2003-04	2,231	15,246	2,372,686
2002-03	241	13,308	2,277,941
2001-02	238	12,979	2,171,515
2000-01	278	20,885	2,086,475
1999-2000	257	11,447	2,270,921
1998-99	624	11,776	2,146,416
1997-98	226	10,397	2,010,881

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on net administration costs in each year since 1997; and what percentage of departmental net operating costs this represented in each year. [225680]

Andy Burnham: The Department's actual net administration costs, and these expressed as a percentage of the net operating costs, in each year since 1997 are shown the table.

	Net administration cost (£000)	*Percentage of net operating cost*
2007-08	54,426	2.95
2006-07	52,591	3.18
2005-06	46,673	3.21
2004-05	40,452	2.98
2003-04	39,335	2.22
2002-03	36,110	2.98
2001-02	57,709	5.39
2000-01	39,162	4.04
1999-2000	38,825	4.03
1998-99	34,219	3.87
1997-98	20,964	2.50

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on the *(a)* Sporting and *(b)* Cultural Champions initiatives in each of the last three years; and what assessment he has made of the performance of each scheme against its objectives. [225682]

Andy Burnham: Information from Sport England is that it has spent £300,000 on the Sporting Champions programme in each of the last three years (2005-08). In total this has supported 1,350 visits and more than 97 per cent. of visit organisers have rated the work of the Sporting Champion as either excellent or good. The programme has helped to inspire and motivate more than 100,000 children and young people each year.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not fund a Cultural Champions programme, but it does fund a mentoring programme, which uses mentors from sport, music and the media to help young people at risk of social exclusion to engage in positive activities and make positive life choices. The DCMS has allocated £1 million per year to this programme since it was established in 2006-07.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227470]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has held no citizen's juries since 1 July 2007.

HOUSE OF COMMONS PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD) ● 2007-08

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Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [216086]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of the Department's Diversity and Health and well-being policies, we have a range of initiatives and programmes in place to support staff and to manage stress, mental health and behavioural issues.

Furthermore, in order to raise awareness of stress and mental health issues we have implemented a range of initiatives and guidance for managers and staff to manage mental health problems in the workplace including an initiative to tackle the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness.

We regularly monitor sickness absence and reasons for absences as a means to tackle attendance issues and provide support to our staff. This support ranges from a 24 hour employee assistance programme, occupational health referral, rehabilitation programme for staff and reasonable adjustments to work or the working environment.

Our work-life balance and lifestyle programme supports our "stress at work" policy allowing staff to manage stress through achievement of effective work-life balance.

We have robust procedures in place to manage sickness absence within the Department and the policy includes guidance for staff on how to preserve and maintain their own and others mental well-being, this includes information on preventing and identifying stress.

The Department has completed a Stress Audit recently and the overall departmental analysis shows that there are no areas of high risk stress across the Department, and only three areas of medium risk. We are now in the process of drawing up an action plan to address the issues highlighted in the report. We will also be running a health event in November which will aim to raise awareness of health and well-being issues.

The Department's sick pay policy pays for sickness absence on full pay for up to six months in any period of 12 months absence—followed by half pay for sickness of up to a maximum of 12 months in any period of four years or less.

Table 1: Department for Culture, Media and Sport

1 April to 31 March each year	*Average duration of single periods of sick leave (days)*
2003-04	9.91
2004-05	7.83
2005-06	10.01
2006-07	7.88
2007-08	11.03

Note:

This table shows the results for DCMS only. DCMS only holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003.

Table 2: The Royal Parks Agency

1 April to 31 March each year	*Average duration of single periods of sick leave (days)*
2003-04	40.8
2004-05	10.0
2005-06	7.1
2006-07	3.7
2007-08	3.9

Note:

This table shows the results for the Royal Parks Agency—DCMS's Executive agency only. The Royal Parks Agency only holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003.

The information in relation to the non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [216088]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of the Department's Diversity and Health and well-being policies, we have a range of initiatives and programmes in place to support staff and to manage stress, mental health and behavioural issues.

Furthermore, in order to raise awareness of stress and mental health issues we have implemented a range of initiatives and guidance for managers and staff to manage mental health problems in the workplace including an initiative to tackle the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness.

We regularly monitor sickness absence and reasons for absences as a means to tackle attendance issues and provide support to our staff. This support ranges from a 24 hour employee assistance programme, occupational health referral, rehabilitation programme for staff and reasonable adjustments to work or the working environment.

Our work-life balance and lifestyle programme supports our "stress at work" policy allowing staff to manage stress through achievement of effective work-life balance.

We have robust procedures in place to manage sickness absence within the Department and the policy includes guidance for staff on how to preserve and maintain their own and others mental well-being, this includes information on preventing and identifying stress.

The Department has completed a Stress Audit recently and the overall departmental analysis shows that there are no areas of high risk stress across the Department, and only three areas of medium risk. We are now in the process of drawing up an action plan to address the issues highlighted in the report. We will also be running a health event in November which will aim to raise awareness of health and well-being issues.

The Department's sick pay policy pays for sickness absence on full pay for up to six months in any period of 12 months absence—followed by half pay for sickness of up to a maximum of 12 months in any period of four years or less.

Table 1: Department for Culture, Media and Sport

	Average duration of single periods of sick leave (days)	
Tax year	*Stress*	*Mental and behavioural*
2003-04	25	118
2004-05	0	201
2005-06	16	3
2006-07	45	0
2007-08	159	22

Note:
This table shows the results for DCMS only. DCMS only holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003.

Table 2: The Royal Parks Agency

	Average duration of single periods of sick leave (days)	
Financial year	*Stress*	*Mental and behavioural*
2003-04	165	44
2004-05	44	81
2005-06	81	21
2006-07	6	19
2007-08	9	0

Note:
This table shows the results for the Royal Parks Agency—DCMS's Executive agency only. The Royal Parks Agency only holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003.

The information in relation to the non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken in each body this figure represented in each case; and if he will make a statement. [216144]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of the Department's Diversity and Health and well-being policies, we have a range of initiatives and programmes in place to support staff and to manage stress, mental health and behavioural issues.

Furthermore, in order to raise awareness of stress and mental health issues we have implemented a range of initiatives and guidance for managers and staff to manage mental health problems in the workplace including an initiative to tackle the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness.

We regularly monitor sickness absence and reasons for absences as a means to tackle attendance issues and provide support to our staff. This support ranges from a 24 hour employee assistance programme, occupational health referral, rehabilitation programme for staff and reasonable adjustments to work or the working environment.

Our work-life balance and lifestyle programme supports our "stress at work" policy allowing staff to manage stress through achievement of effective work-life balance.

We have robust procedures in place to manage sickness absence within the Department and the policy includes guidance for staff on how to preserve and maintain their own and others mental well-being, this includes information on preventing and identifying stress.

The Department has completed a Stress Audit recently and the overall departmental analysis shows that there are no areas of high risk stress across the Department, and only three areas of medium risk. We are now in the process of drawing up an action plan to address the issues highlighted in the report. We will also be running a health event in November which will aim to raise awareness of health and well-being issues.

The Department's sick pay policy pays for sickness absence on full pay for up to six months in any period of 12 months absence—followed by half pay for sickness of up to a maximum of 12 months in any period of four years or less.

Table 1: Department for Culture, Media and Sport

	Stress		*Mental and behavioural*	
Tax year	*Number of sick days*	*Proportion of sick days (percentage)*	*Number of sick days*	*Proportion of sick days (percentage)*
2003-04	145	4.4	606	18.6
2004-05	120	3.3	438	12.0
2005-06	333	10.5	153	4.8
2006-07	460	13.0	496	14.0
2007-08	721	30.4	22	0.9

Note:
Table 1 shows the results for DCMS only. DCMS only holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003.

Table 2: The Royal Parks Agency

	Stress		*Mental and behavioural*	
Financial year	*Number of sick days*	*Proportion of sick days (percentage)*	*Number of sick days*	*Proportion of sick days (percentage)*
2003-04	165	9.0	44	2.0
2004-05	44	2.0	81	3.0
2005-06	81	6.0	21	2.0
2006-07	6	1.0	19	4.0
2007-08	9	2.0	0	0.0

Note:
Table 2 shows the results for The Royal Parks Agency—DCMS's Executive Agency only. The Royal Parks Agency only holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003.

The information in relation to the non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if he will make a statement. [216085]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of the Department's Diversity and Health and well-being policies, we have a range of initiatives and programmes in place to support staff and to manage stress, mental health and behavioural issues.

Furthermore, in order to raise awareness of stress and mental health issues we have implemented a range of initiatives and guidance for managers and staff to manage mental health problems in the work place including an initiative to tackle the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness.

We regularly monitor sickness absence and reasons for absences as a means to tackle attendance issues and provide support to our staff. This support ranges from a 24-hour employee assistance programme, occupational health referral, rehabilitation programme for staff and reasonable adjustments to work or the working environment.

Our work-life balance and lifestyle programme supports our "stress at work" policy allowing staff to manage stress through achievement of effective work-life balance.

We have robust procedures in place to manage sickness absence within the Department and the policy includes guidance for staff on how to preserve and maintain their own and others mental well-being, this includes information on preventing and identifying stress.

The Department has completed a Stress Audit recently and the overall departmental analysis shows that there are no areas of high risk stress across the Department, and only three areas of medium risk. We are now in the process of drawing up an action plan to address the issues highlighted in the report. We will also be running a health event in November which will aim to raise awareness of health and well-being issues.

The Department's sick pay policy pays for sickness absence on full pay for up to six months in any period of 12 months absence—followed by half pay for sickness of up to a maximum of 12 months in any period of four years or less.

Table 1: Sick leave—stress and mental health and behavioural disorders, Department for Culture, Media and Sport

	Stress		*Mental and behavioural*	
Tax Year	*Number of staff*	*Average days*	*Number of staff*	*Average days*
2003-04	7	21	6	101
2004-05	5	24	5	88
2005-06	8	24	5	31
2006-07	8	60	2	22
2007-08	6	120	2	11

Note:

Shows the results for DCMS only. DCMS holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003 only.

Table 2: Sick leave—stress and mental health and behavioural disorders, The Royal Parks Agency

	Stress		*Mental and behavioural*	
Financial Year	*Number of staff*	*Average days*	*Number of staff*	*Average days*
2003-04	6	165	1	44
2004-05	11	44	8	81
2005-06	3	8T	2	21
2006-07	3	6	2	19
2007-08	2	9	0	0

Note:

Shows the results for The Royal Parks Agency—DCMS's Executive agency only. The Royal Parks Agency holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003 only.

The information in relation to the non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the annual staffing expenditure of each body this figure represented in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [216141]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of the Department's Diversity and Health and well-being policies, we have a range of initiatives and programmes in place to support staff and to manage stress, mental health and behavioural issues.

Furthermore, in order to raise awareness of stress and mental health issues we have implemented a range of initiatives and guidance for managers and staff to manage mental health problems in the workplace including an initiative to tackle the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness.

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The Department has completed a Stress Audit recently and the overall departmental analysis shows that there are no areas of high risk stress across the Department, and only three areas of medium risk. We are now in the process of drawing up an action plan to address the issues highlighted in the report. We will also be running a health event in November which will aim to raise awareness of health and well-being issues.

The Department's sick pay policy pays for sickness absence on full pay for up to six months in any period of 12 months absence—followed by half pay for sickness of up to a maximum of 12 months in any period of four years or less.

The information provided shows the salary costs and excludes employers' pension and national insurance contributions. These and other related information could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

1 April to 31 March each year	*Salary costs (£)*	*Proportion of annual staffing expenditure (percentage)*
2003-04	211,790	1.14
2004-05	200,950	1.01
2005-06	248,664	1.12
2006-07	209,167	0.84
2007-08	153,639	0.59

Note:

Table 1 shows the results for DCMS only. DCMS only holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003.

Although we requested the information from The Royal Parks Agency—DCMS's Executive Agency, we were not provided with an answer.

The information in relation to the non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Football: Betting

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Football Association in respect of recent allegations of match-fixing and unusual betting activity on a Football League Championship match. [228104]

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Football Association on allegations of match-fixing and unusual betting activity involving the Norwich City versus Derby County Football League Championship match on 4 October. [228289]

Andy Burnham: I have not had any discussions with the Football Association (FA) in respect of the recent allegations of match fixing and unusual betting activity on the Norwich City versus Derby County Football League Championship match on 4 October.

The Government take any allegations relating to the integrity of sport seriously. The Gambling Act 2005 introduced tough new penalties to keep gambling free from crime and corruption. In particular it brought in the offence of cheating at gambling where any person found guilty faces a maximum prison sentence of two years.

I am aware that the allegations have been reported to the FA and the Gambling Commission.

The FA is investigating whether there is any substance to the allegations and the Gambling Commission is supporting the FA in its inquiries. It would not be appropriate to comment further on any case that may result in prosecution.

Museums and Galleries: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much unallocated grant in aid there is for museums and galleries in his Department's budget. [225460]

Barbara Follett: The Department has no unallocated grant in aid for its sponsored museums and galleries.

Public Service Broadcasting

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to review the fulfilment by broadcasters of their public service obligations. [227736]

Andy Burnham: The Government have no such plans. Under the Communications Act 2003, Ofcom has a statutory responsibility to carry out periodic reviews of the fulfilment of the public service remit: the second such review is currently in progress. Responsibility for ensuring that individual broadcasters comply with their public service obligations rests with Ofcom for the commercial public service broadcasters, with the BBC Trust for the BBC and with the S4C Authority for S4C.

Swimming: Concessions

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many additional free or discounted swimming lessons will be provided as a result of the additional Government funding for swimming. [228221]

Andy Burnham: Initiatives such as swimming lessons will be funded from the overall funding package.

Government are currently working with stakeholders including the Amateur Swimming Association and Sport England on the detailed design and delivery arrangements for such initiatives.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings have taken place with the Swimming Teachers' Association to discuss the Government's free swimming proposals. [228222]

Andy Burnham: Government designed the Free Swimming Programme in close consultation with a range of stakeholders including the Local Government Association, the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers' Association, the Amateur Swimming Association (as the governing body for swimming) and Sport England.

No meetings have taken place with the Swimming Teachers' Association to discuss the programme.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Casualties

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* reports and *(b)* complaints his Department has received of civilian deaths due to aeroplane attacks by NATO forces in Afghanistan in the last 12 months; what the (i) date, (ii) location and (iii) alleged resulting number of civilian deaths of each such attack were; what response his Department has made to each (A) report and (B) complaint; and if he will make a statement. [223728]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence does not collate data relating to reports or complaints of civilian casualties where these do not relate to incidents allegedly caused by UK forces. Any such reports are passed to the NATO chain of command or the respective national authorities for investigation.

Over the last 12 months, my Department has received formal notification of two occasions on which UK aircraft were involved in incidents in which civilian casualties are believed to have occurred. One occurred in March 2008 and the second in September 2008. In both cases, the incidents were subjected to a thorough and detailed investigation. There is no reason to believe that UK forces behaved inappropriately in either incident. We do not collate or publish figures for civilian casualties in Afghanistan because of the immense difficulty and risks of collecting robust data.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for conflict resolution in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [225962]

Mr. Hutton: Afghanistan continues to present significant security challenges, particularly in the south and east of the country where the Taliban continue to use intimidation and violence against the local population. Key to our strategy is ensuring there are political-led solutions in Afghanistan as the insurgency cannot be defeated by military means alone. There are no quick solutions, but we continue to support the Government of Afghanistan's efforts to bring disaffected Afghans into society's mainstream.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what types of helicopter are deployed in Afghanistan undertaking *(a)* combat support roles and *(b)* medical evacuation roles; and how many of each type are deployed. [227021]

Mr. Hutton: ISAF helicopter support is provided from a multinational pool. The UK has provided Chinook, Sea King and Lynx helicopters in Afghanistan to undertake combat support roles and has also deployed Apache attack helicopters. The UK also makes use of a range of civilian helicopters through a NATO contract. While any helicopter could in extremis be used to support medical evacuation, Chinook and Sea King helicopters are primarily tasked for this specific purpose.

I am withholding the numbers of helicopters deployed as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which *(a)* reconstruction and *(b)* aid projects British armed forces are participating in Afghanistan. [225940]

Mr. Hutton: British troops are not routinely engaged in the distribution of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan. However, they do run or participate in a wide range of reconstruction projects, for details of which I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my ministerial colleague, the right hon. Member for Coventry, North-East (Mr. Ainsworth), on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1438W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the most recent time projection is for the completion and commissioning of the two new aircraft carriers. [228114]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend, Baroness Taylor of Bolton to the noble Lord, Lord Astor of Hever in another place on 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column WA103.

Apache Helicopters: Crew

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to increase levels of the recruitment, training and retention of Apache helicopter crews. [227356]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 October 2008]*: The Army Air Corps is currently in a very strong position with regard to manning. It continues to attract high quality volunteers for flying training from across the Army, including sufficient candidates for Attack Helicopter training. There are no plans to initiate recruitment activities beyond those measures currently in place.

The training our Attack Helicopter (AH) crews receive is world class. It takes a full year to make AH pilots ready for deployment on combat operations. The training schedule includes a pre-deployment training exercise to Arizona to experience 'hot and high' conditions and culminates in a mission rehearsal exercise alongside the deploying formation. In the Afghan theatre, force levels and the capabilities required are regularly reviewed and AH training is constantly scrutinised to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Retention of AH crews is currently being examined, as part of work recently commissioned by the Joint Helicopter Command. We are, however, confident that the operational commitments of the AH force are sustainable. The Apache continues to provide a battle winning capability in Afghanistan and we have increased the flying hours available to commanders on the ground by 15 per cent. since October 2006. We aim to increase flying hours by a further 25 per cent. by early next year, by deploying additional helicopters, and we are building the logistic support required in terms of spare parts and personnel, particularly engineering manpower, to enable this.

Armed Forces: Blood

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will use pathogen inactivation for blood products to be supplied for UK forces personnel. [225938]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Pathogen inactivation (PI) is a process designed to eliminate pathogens—i.e. viruses, bacteria and fungi—from water, air or donated blood. The majority of the blood held in-theatre by the Defence Medical Services (DMS) is supplied by the UK National Blood Services (NBS), which does not routinely carry out PI on its blood products. However, we understand that the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO, an independent non-departmental public body) will be undertaking a comprehensive review of pathogen inactivation for blood products in 2009, which will inform decisions on its use in the UK. It would not be practical for the DMS to introduce its own discrete in-theatre PI capability, in view of the complexity of the current technology and the infrequency with which it would be required.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* regular and *(b)* Territorial Army (i) officers and (ii) personnel of other ranks have been mobilised for service overseas within six months of completing their basic training in each year since 2003. [227876]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are collating the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member when the work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* armed forces personnel and *(b)* civilians from his Department wounded in operations have contracted (i) methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and (ii) Clostridium difficile while being treated at (A) Headley Court, (B) Selly Oak and (C) other medical facilities in the United Kingdom since 2002. [201031]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The data available in respect of the Birmingham group of hospitals (Selly Oak, Queen Elizabeth, Heartlands, City and Royal Orthopaedic), which have been collated in consultation with the relevant NHS authorities, relate to military in-patients returning from service in Afghanistan or Iraq over the period January 2003 to January 2008. Over that period, available records show that only one patient is known to have become infected with methicillin-resistant Staphyloccocus aureus Bacteraemia while being treated in a Birmingham hospital; 12 patients were infected with Clostridium difficile (including one patient diagnosed twice within a six-week period). All of the patients concerned were members of the armed forces; none was an MOD civilian.

Over the period since 2002 we have no reports of a patient under treatment at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court contracting an infection from either MRSA Bacteraemia or Clostridium difficile during their stay there.

No comparable statistics are readily available in respect of other medical facilities at which armed forces and MOD civilians have been treated. To compile them would involve a trawl of the medical records of all the relevant patient population and subsequent consultation with the microbiology departments of the NHS trusts concerned. This could be done only at disproportionate cost, and with the permission of each individual patient.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for task strength is of each pinch point trade in the Armed Forces. [226983]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the liability, strength and shortfalls, in real numbers and percentage figures, from the single-Service Quarter 1 (June 2008) Pinch Point Registers. The 'Fit for Task' strengths are not routinely recorded and the cost of doing so in this instance would be disproportionably high for the Department.

			Shortfall	
	Liability	*Strength*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Royal Navy				
Operational Pinch Point Trades				
Lt X SM Advanced Warfare Course Qualified	75	68	7	8
RN Harrier GR7 Instructors	7	3	4	57
GR7 Harrier Pilots—Lt	35	18	17	48
Merlin Pilots	112	68	44	39
Merlin Observers	116	63	53	46
Merlin Aircrewmen	102	80	22	22
Leading Seaman General Warfare	1,108	649	459	41
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	110	84	26	24
Able Rate Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	173	134	39	22
Able Rate Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner)	121	96	25	21
Able Rate Diver	136	95	41	30
Able Rate 1 Seaman	351	297	54	15
Able Rate 1 Warfare Specialist	754	673	181	24
Able Rate 1 Communications and Information Systems	375	327	48	13
Leading Aircraft Controllers	75	42	33	44
Royal Marines Other Ranks	6,525	6,003	522	8
Sea-King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors	348	284	64	18
Cat A Nuclear Watchkeepers	217	164	53	24
Petty Officer Mine Warfare	56	41	15	27
Cat B Nuclear Watchkeepers	417	340	77	18
Army				
Operational Pinch Point Trades				
Infantryman Pte-LCpl	14,615	12,968	1,647	11

	Liability	Strength	Shortfall Number	Shortfall Percentage
REME Vehicle Mechanic Pte-Cpl	3,625	3,132	493	14
REME Armourer Pte-Cpl	397	317	80	20
REME Recovery Mechanic LCpl-Cpl	344	216	128	37
Intelligence Operator—Military Intelligence Cpl-Sgt	690	462	228	33
RE Clerk of Works SSgt-WOI	245	246	+1	-0.4
REE OD Cpl-Sgt	222	95	127	57
RA Gunner LBdr-Bdr	5,048	4,330	718	14
RLC Ammo Tech Cpl-SSgt	285	157	128	45
Army				
Manning Pinch Point Trades				
AMS ITU Nurse Cpl-Capt	121	35	86	71
AMS Emergency Medicine Nurse Cpl-Capt	101	38	63	62
AMS Radiologist Maj	4	1	3	75
AMS Orthopaedic Surg Maj+	13	7	6	46
AMS Gen Surg Maj+	17	10	7	41
AMS Anaesthetist Maj+	49	26	23	53
AMS Gen Med Prac Capt+	153	137	16	10
AMS Radiographer Cpl+	24	10	14	58
AMS Registered General Nurse	293	263	30	10
AMS Operation Department Practitioner Cpl+	95	82	13	14
RA Unmanned Ariel Vehicle Operator (Level 4) LBdr-Bdr	280	237	43	15
RE Mil Engr Geo Spr-WO2	332	292	40	12
RE Mil Engr C3S Spr-LCpl	704	593	111	16
RLC Postal and Courier Op Pte-Cpl	433	350	83	19
RLC Chef Pte-LCpl	1,459	1,366	93	6
RSigs IS Engr Cpl-Sgt	237	202	35	15
AGC(SPS) Mil Admin Pte-Sgt	2,610	2,302	308	12
CAMUS Musician	300	231	69	23
RE ME Fitter Spr-LCpl	549	395	154	28
Royal Air Force				
Operational Pinch Point Trades				
Medical	274	218	56	20
Pilot (Junior Officer)	1,500	1,284	216	14
Flying Branch(Career Stream) (Senior Officer)	725	685	40	5
Operations Support (Intelligence)	230	230	0	0
Operations Support (Regiment)	263	241	22	8
Operations Support (Flight Operations)	212	202	10	5
Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service	177	132	45	25
Weapons System Operator (Air Load Master)	541	453	88	16
Weapons System Operator (Linguist)	66	50	16	24
Air Traffic Controller (ATC) / Flight Operations Manager (FOM)/Flight Operations Assistant (FOA)	1,257	1,213	44	3
Firefighter	545	480	65	12
Gunner	1,792	1,596	196	11
Movements Operator/Controller	866	850	16	2
Military Transport Technician	330	121	19	5
Royal Air Force				
Manning Pinch Point Trades				
Administration (Training)	228	205	23	10
Chaplains	78	64	14	18
Medical Support	90	78	12	13
Operations Support (Fighter Control)	341	295	46	13
Operations Support (Air Traffic Control)	424	375	49	12
Dental	68	61	7	10
Intelligence Analyst (Communications)	282	229	53	19
Intelligence Analyst (Imagery)	404	361	43	11

			Shortfall	
	Liability	*Strength*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Environmental Health Technician	47	37	10	21
Radiographer	11	10	1	9
Mess Manager/Steward	491	445	46	9
Musician	172	153	19	11
Royal Air Force Physical Training Instructor (PTI)	509	480	29	6
SEFitt	614	589	25	4
Staff Nurse (RMN)	30	25	5	17
Lab Tech	15	10	5	33
Med Asst/Admin	587	611	+24	+4
DentHyg	21	18	3	14
Dent Admin/Nurse	134	123	11	8
Pers Admin	1,494	1,432	62	4
Supplier	1,838	1,841	+3	+0.2
MTD	1,111	1,021	90	8

Note:
All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen and women were recruited to *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in 2007-08; and how many left each service in the same period. [227975]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of UK regular forces servicemen and women recruited to and leaving *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in 2007-08 can be found in tables 3 and 4 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 1—UK Regular Forces Strengths and Changes. TSP 1 is published monthly and the most recent publication shows figures for the 12 months to 1 September 2008 and financial year 2007-08 figures. September 2008 TSP 1 can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=30&date=2008-10-14&pubType=1&PublishTime=09:30:00&from=home&tabOption=1.

Copies of TSP 1 are also available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Schools

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the co-operation between schools and armed forces recruitment centres; and if he will make a statement. [219914]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Co-operation between armed forces recruitment staffs and local schools remains at a high level. Armed forces presentation teams and careers advisers visit about 1,000 state and public schools across the UK each year, but only at the specific invitation of the schools/colleges themselves. Their aims are to raise the students' awareness of the armed forces in a democratic society, support schools' careers programmes, facilitate participative learning exercises with students, and offer advice on service careers. The teams do not go into schools to recruit.

We are proud of the work the single-service presentation teams do with schools and colleges to inform young people about the tremendous work undertaken and careers on offer in the armed forces and which can provide fantastic opportunities to a wide range of people from all sectors of society. Young people should be shown all available career options; the more information they receive about life in the Armed Forces, covering all points good and bad, the better informed they will be.

Armed Forces: Training

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account his Department has taken in its formulation of policy on training of the summing-up remarks of Mr. Justice Royce of Winchester Crown Court before the acquittal of Provost Sergeant Russell Price, Sergeant Paul Blake and Corporal John Edwards on 31 July 2008. [227404]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Immediately following Mr. Justice Royce's summing-up remarks, amendments were made to the Adjutant General's Administrative Instructions 67 (AGAI 67) Part Two (Minor Action) and this amendment has also been incorporated into Joint Service Publication 833 (Minor Administrative Action). The amendments relate to the award of a minor sanction. Any person awarding a minor sanction must now give the individual supervising the sanction written details of the sanction.

Other aspects of the summing-up remarks will be investigated as part of either the ongoing investigation currently being conducted by the royal military police or by the subsequent Army Board of Inquiry. It would therefore not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

Armed Forces: Weapons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* AS90s and *(b)* L118s are (i) in service, (ii) fit for purpose and (iii) out of service. [226834]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The figures requested are as follows.

	Percentage of total holdings in service	*Percentage of in service holding fit for purpose*	*Percentage of total holdings out of service*
AS90	100	97	0
L118	100	100	0

There are 20 L118 (light gun) guns in service that are used for saluting and ceremonial roles. These are not capable of firing live rounds but for the purposes of answering this question they are counted as fit for purpose.

In answering this question the following definitions have been used:

In service: Total numbers excluding those which are out of service or awaiting receipt inspections and registration.

Out of service: Equipments past their out of service date and/or awaiting disposal.

Fit for purpose: Equipments which are capable of being used in whatever capacity they are currently required for.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* light machine guns, *(b)* general purpose machine guns and *(c)* heavy machine guns are (i) in service, (ii) fit for purpose and (iii) out of service. [226835]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The figures requested are as follows.

	Percentage of total holdings in service	*Percentage of in service holdings fit for purpose*	*Percentage of total holdings out of service*
Light machine gun	100	96	0
General purpose machine gun	100	85	0
Heavy machine gun	100	94	0

In answering the question the following definitions have been used.

In service: Total numbers held excluding out of service numbers.

Out of service: Equipments past their out of service date and/or awaiting disposal.

Fit for purpose: Equipments which are capable of being used in whatever capacity they are currently required for.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* Scimitar and *(b)* Spartans are (i) in service, (ii) fit for purpose and (iii) out of service. [226989]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The figures requested are shown in the following table:

Vehicle	*Total fleet in-service*	*In-service fleet fit for purpose*	*Percentage Total fleet out-of-service*
Scimitar	100	89	0
Spartan	100	90	0

In answering this question the following definitions have been used:

In-service—Total fleet numbers excluding out-of-service numbers.

Out-of-service—Vehicles past their out of service date and/or awaiting disposal.

Fit for Purpose—Vehicles which are capable of being used in whatever capacity they are currently required for.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current *(a)* in-service date and *(b)* cost of the Future Rapid Effects System is. [227869]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Future Rapid Effect System programme is currently in its assessment phase. The in-service date and the cost of the programme will not be fixed until the main investment decision has been taken.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for task strength of each battalion of the infantry is. [226906]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The figures requested are shown in the following tables.

The figures in both tables include personnel filling all roles within each battalion, not just infantrymen. Fit for task has been defined as fully deployable, and thus excludes those who may be fit to perform rear party duty.

This answer differs to the one I gave to the hon. Member on 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1091W, primarily because the figures also take account of personnel listed as being of limited deployability or non-deployable for non-medical reasons.

Div	*Unit*	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for task strength*
Guards	1 Grenadier Guards	580	491	410
	1 Coldstream Gds	627	563	491
	1 Scots Guards	760	595	485
	1 Irish Guards	636	570	419
	1 Welsh Guards	631	588	515
Scots	1 Scots	633	628	507
	2 Scots	566	449	405
	3 Scots	535	470	348
	4 Scots	760	642	448
	5 Scots	654	560	448
Queens	1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	760	658	549
	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	625	538	478
	1 Royal Regt Fusiliers	753	649	580
	2 Royal Regt Fusiliers	623	530	457
	1 Royal Anglian	670	691	518

Div	*Unit*	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for task strength*
	2 Royal Anglian	627	629	511
Kings	1 Lancs	741	666	566
	2 Lancs	664	737	669
	1 Yorks	633	541	505
	2 Yorks	627	501	423
	3 Yorks	684	547	421
PoW	1 Mercian	627	513	417
	2 Mercian	620	555	477
	3 Mercian	690	564	402
	1 Royal Welsh	625	545	453
	2 Royal Welsh	756	647	475
Rifles	2 Rifles	615	584	484
	3 Rifles	625	602	556
	4 Rifles	702	684	528
	5 Rifles	760	700	553
RI	1 Royal Irish	654	516	414
Para	2 Para	654	646	585
	3 Para	654	607	566
RGR	1 Royal Gurkha Rifles	643	759	586
	2 Royal Gurkha Rifles	822	913	831

In addition to the battalions shown above there are three incremental Guards companies which are primarily for public duties but which can also be used to augment the other Guards battalions as required:

Unit	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for task strength*
N Coy Grenadier Gds	108	111	93
7 Coy Coldstream Gds	108	105	90
F Coy Scots Guards	108	127	107

Campaign Against the Arms Trade

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times officials from his Department have met representatives from the Campaign Against Arms Trade since September 2006; what the title was of each departmental official attending; what the date was of each meeting; and what the length was of each meeting. [220836]

Mr. Hutton: We have no record of any meetings between officials of this Department and representatives from the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) since September 2006. Previously, the then Head of Defence Export Services met representatives from CAAT on 30 August 2005. The meeting lasted around half an hour.

Responsibility for Government support to defence exports was transferred from the Ministry of Defence to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) on 1 April this year. I understand that the Head of UKTI Defence and Security Organisation has agreed recently to meet CAAT representatives in the near future.

China: Armed Forces

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration was given by officials in his Department to the terms of the Madrid Declaration 1989 when agreeing to *(a)* its bilateral programme with China and *(b)* the attendance of Chinese cadets at Sandhurst. [228531]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I set out the basis of the MOD's bilateral programme with the Chinese People's Liberation Army in my answer to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2250-51W. Since the Madrid Declaration of 1989, our bilateral relationship with China has developed considerably. As with other EU partners, most of the measures adopted then, such as suspension of bilateral ministerial and high-level contacts have long since fallen into disuse. The arms embargo, however, remains in place.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from his US counterpart on *(a)* his Department's Chinese bilateral programme and *(b)* the training of Chinese military personnel in the UK. [228533]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have received no such representations.

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226520]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces and MOD civilian recruiting organisations employ a wide range of measures to ascertain the effectiveness of their recruitment advertising campaigns. For example, the MOD uses regular independent pre and post-advertising tracking research which explores the attitudes and behaviour of the target audience towards the campaigns, and the awareness of each burst of advertising to inform what percentage of the target audience has been reached. These are then set against advertising expenditure to assess the cost effectiveness of the various media channels and tools used compared with each other, across government and with industry averages.

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) undertakes two modest regional awareness campaigns each year to raise awareness of its services to veterans. As part of a wider campaign evaluation, a coupon is attached to each advertisement that readers can return. For the last two campaigns 19 and 101 coupons were returned respectively. Small 'feature' entries for SPVA are also included in all British Telecom phone books.

but no realistic assessment is possible of these entries. In addition, a small number of ad-hoc advertising opportunities are exploited throughout the year in ex-service and commemorative magazines. These are low value and are not formally evaluated.

The Department also works closely with the Central Office of Information to develop a system which will provide clarity on the value for money of advertising campaigns in the future.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226416]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of non-pensionable bonuses awarded to members of the senior civil service (SCS), to fixed term appointees and to civil servants below the level of the SCS covered by the MOD main pay deal (excluding trading funds and agencies), relating to performance in Financial Year 2007-08 and paid in FY 2008-09 to end September 2008, are listed in the tables one to three. The Ministry of Defence also awards special bonuses to individuals and teams for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of professional qualifications which benefit MOD and the individual; these are shown in table four as payments to date.

Table 1: Bonuses paid to senior civil servants

	2008-09
Number of bonuses paid	187
Value of bonuses paid (£ million)	1.5

Table 2: Bonuses paid to senior fixed term appointees

	2008-09
Number of bonuses paid	[1]18
Value of bonuses paid (£)	454,539

[1] There are eight outstanding bonus payments still to be agreed.

Table 3: End-of-year bonuses paid to staff below the level of the SCS[1]

	2008-09
Number of bonuses paid	60,137
Value of bonuses paid (£)	40,196,000

[1] Excluding MOD trading fund agencies.

Table 4: Special bonuses[1]

	2008-09[2]
Number of staff who received bonus(es)	10,358
Value of bonuses paid (£)	4,284,000

[1] Excluding MOD trading fund agencies.
[2] To end of September 2008.

Energy: Research

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research has been carried out by his Department into the kinetic energy of hypersonic mass over the last five years. [228111]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Over the past five years the MOD has commissioned research into the electromagnetic launch of kinetic energy projectiles to achieve hypersonic velocities. This research ended in 2005 as it was determined that the technology did not offer cost effective alternatives to current capabilities.

The Department now maintains an awareness of electromagnetic launch and hypersonic projectiles technologies, and a capability to model KE projectile/target interactions as set out in the Defence Technology Strategy, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether combat simulation studies have been carried out to analyse the capabilities of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter against those of other aircraft, including the Sukhoi SU 27/35 series. [225699]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The UK has undertaken combat simulations with a variety of aircraft but due to the high classification of these simulations, I am withholding the details of this information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Merlin Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* in-service and *(b)* operational delivery dates are of each of the six Merlin helicopters procured from Denmark. [226911]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Merlin helicopters acquired from Denmark are known as Merlin Mk3a, when converted.

The first Merlin Mk3a was delivered to 78 Squadron on 22 January 2008 and the second on 31 January. The initial Release to Service (flight clearance) was signed on 21 January this year. Since then, aircraft have been incrementally modified to keep a maximum number available to the forward fleet. An Initial Operating Capability (IOC) was agreed by Joint Helicopter Command on 31 March for two aircraft. By 30 July, five aircraft had been delivered to RAF Benson for tasking. The sixth helicopter will be returned to RAF Benson next month, following completion of specialist communications testing which is normal for a new class of aircraft.

Meteorological Office: Finance

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government have provided by way of grants or subsidies to *(a)* the Met Office and *(b)* the Met Office Hadley Centre in each financial year since 1998. [227855]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Government have provided no grants or subsidies to the Met Office. The Met Office is a trading fund within the MOD and, as such, is paid by its customers, both government and commercial, to provide a range of weather and climate related services. In the last 10 years, the Met Office has received the following revenue from government customers:

£000

	Government	*Of which: Hadley Centre*
2007-08	131,092	20,983
2006-07	125,909	18,764
2005-06	124,317	16,704
2004-05	119,790	15,628

£000

	Government	*Of which: Hadley Centre*
2003-04	116,521	14,117
2002-03	110,592	11,833
2001-02	108,085	11,584
2000-01	106,434	11,374
1999-2000	106,303	11,363
1998-99	104,305	10,832

Notes:

1. Revenue is also received from the Civil Aviation Authority for the Met Office's public task. In 2007-08 this amounted to £18,211,000.

2. The Met Office also provides weather and climate related services on a commercial basis. In 2007-08 this generated revenue of £26,989,000.

Military Bases: Security

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many break-ins were reported at UK military bases in each of the last 12 months. [227874]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The numbers of break-ins reported to the Ministry of Defence police at UK military bases in each of the last 12 months are shown in the following table.

For the purpose of this answer we have defined break-ins at UK military bases as all reported instances of burglary and trespassing at MOD establishments.

	Burglaries	*Trespass*
2007		
October	5	13
November	2	10
December	6	16
2008		
January	7	17
February	6	12
March	15	8
April	10	4
May	11	11
June	6	7
July	3	16
August	7	17
September	3	11
Total	81	142

Nimrod Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current *(a)* in-service date and *(b)* cost of the Nimrod MRA4 is. [227871]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The current forecast in-service date for Nimrod MRA4 is 2010. The current forecast procurement cost is £3,602 million.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recommendations of the Nimrod XV230 crash board of inquiry report have been implemented to date. [226913]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Of the 33 recommendations made by the Board of Inquiry (BOI) into the loss of Nimrod XV230, 22 have been implemented in full. This includes seven recommendations which relate to air-to-air refuelling (AAR), which are considered to be closed because AAR for the Nimrod has been prohibited.

Work on eight of the BOI recommendations is ongoing. The remaining three recommendations have not been taken forward as it is considered that their intent has been met through other means.

Parachute Regiment: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* current strength is of each of the three battalions of the Parachute Regiment. [226850]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current strength of 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment and 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment is 646 and 607 respectively. The establishment of both Regiments is 654. I am withholding data for 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment, as their release would or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to improve conditions for Royal Marines wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq requiring hospital treatment. [226883]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence and the Defence Medical Services (DMS) are committed to providing a high standard of treatment to our wounded service personnel regardless of service. We review both clinical and administrative aspects of patient care, based on feedback from theatre and hospitals, and implement improvements to them as necessary. The cross-party House of Commons Defence Committee in its February 2008 report on 'Medical care for the Armed Forces', declared that:

> "The clinical care for Servicemen and women seriously injured on operations is second to none. DMS personnel, working with the NHS, provide world-class care and we pay tribute to them."

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on transporting family members to airports to meet returning service members coming home from operations in each month since January 2003. [226907]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is not Ministry of Defence policy to transport family members to airports to meet service personnel returning from operations.

Russia: Armed Forces

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of the recent joint naval military exercise conducted by Venezuela and Russia; what response he has made to those reports; and if he will make a statement. [225965]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are aware of recent media reports about a joint Russian-Venezuelan naval military exercise in 2008 but have no information that such an exercise has yet taken place.

Social Services: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's total expenditure was on payments to welfare associations, as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy, in near cash terms, in each financial year since 2000-01. [173723]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total resource costs against this resource account code are set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Welfare Associations (£000)*
2000-01	10
2001-02	10
2002-03	10
2003-04	8
2004-05	1
2005-06	0
2006-07	0

Near cash expenditure is not separately identified in the final resource accounts or the centrally held supporting records. Total resource costs have therefore been provided; however it is unlikely that there are any non-cash costs attributed to the expenditure items which would result in the near cash expenditure being different from the resource expenditure.

There is an apparent tailing off of expenditure against this resource account code, this is not as a result of MOD ceasing to provide funds for these activities; the expenditure is now reported against a different resource account code and is not separately identifiable.

Submarines

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the number of attack submarines in service in the Royal Navy in each of the next 10 years. [227870]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: On present plans, which are regularly reviewed, the number of Attack submarines in each year is as follows:

	Number of vessels
2009	8
2010	8
2011	7
2012	7
2013	7
2014	7
2015	7
2016	7
2017	7
2018	7

From 2011 onwards there will be occasions when we briefly have eight submarines in service, as the Astute class gradually replaces the Swiftsures and Trafalgars, but the number will usually be seven.

Territorial Army: Dental Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to allow members of the Territorial Army to be treated by dentists employed by the army free of charge at army premises. [226123]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no plans to change our current policy on provision of dental treatment to the Territorial Army.

Tides: Timetables

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will arrange for the Hydrographic Office to issue tide times for 2009. [227632]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Tidal predictions are available from the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) in print, as software and online.

Admiralty EasyTide online service provides free tidal predictions for over 7,000 ports worldwide for the next seven days. Admiralty TotalTide software is accepted by the UK Maritime Coastguard Agency and other maritime administrations for use by SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) vessels, and can also be purchased for leisure and domestic use.

Official tide times, predictions and relevant data for 2009 are already available within Admiralty Tide Tables. They can be purchased online via the UKHO Admiralty webshop at:

http://www.admiraltyshop.co.uk

via one of the Admiralty distributors listed at:

http://www.ukho.gov.uk/amd/howtobuy.asp

or viewed free of charge in a good reference library.

Official worldwide tide predictions are published no sooner than eight months in advance of a new year to ensure that they use the latest available information but in sufficient time for customers' planning needs.

UKHO does, however, make the predictions available, e.g. through software or online services, years in advance. UKHO, however, cautions use of such predictions for safety critical work as predictions can change over time.

UKHO tide predictions are licensed to many organisations and individuals for a variety of public purposes and publications, the majority being free-of-charge licences.

Real-time tides are monitored at discrete locations by Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory through whom real-time tide gauge readings are available. Historical raw tide gauge data are obtainable from British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC). Other agencies may also collect tidal data.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the average real price of units of alcohol *(a)* consumed in pubs and *(b)* bought in retail outlets for each main unit of alcohol over the last (a) 10 and (b) 20 years; and if he will make a statement. [226468]

Angela Eagle: A 10-year comparison of the latest available annual figures is shown below. A 20-year comparison is not available.

	Average real (2007) prices		
	Beer (Pint)	*Wine (75cl bottle)*	*Whisky (70cl bottle)*
Pubs			
2007	2.44	13.05	39.41
1997	2.24	11.36	48.36
Retail			
2007	1.00	3.99	9.72
1997	1.35	4.45	13.86

Real prices do not reflect affordability, which will include measures of, for instance, consumer income.

Building Societies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission research on the effects of the demutualisation of former building societies on the wider financial system. [226736]

Ian Pearson: The Government supported research by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Building Societies and Financial Mutuals on the impact of demutualisation, the findings of which were published in March 2006. The Government continue to monitor activity in the sector and support action to make the process of demutualisation more transparent and accountable to members of building societies.

Coinage: Forgery

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has issued to the public on how to recognise a counterfeit £1 coin; and if he will make a statement. [227516]

Ian Pearson: The Royal Mint includes information on ways that a counterfeit £1 coin might be identified on the 'Frequently Asked Questions' section of its website

www.royalmint.gov.uk.

Credit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what correspondence his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials had with banks and their representatives on the provision of affordable credit in each year since 1997; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence; [227880]

(2) what meetings his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials had with banks and their representatives to discuss the provision of affordable credit in each year since 1997; which banks were represented in each case; and what the date and location of each meeting was. [227881]

Ian Pearson: The Government are in continuing close contact with the banking sector. Treasury Ministers and officials meet and correspond with representatives of the banking sector on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of financial services issues, including the provision of affordable credit. It is not appropriate to provide details of all such engagements.

The banks have supported the Government's work to promote access to affordable credit and to expand the lending capacity of third sector lenders such as Credit Unions and CDFIs. In December 2007 the major UK retail banks made a formal commitment to support this work including actions to develop new provision in 25 high priority areas identified by the Financial Inclusion Taskforce.

Economic Situation

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions there have been between the European Commission and the Government on ways to prevent a repeat of the financial market turbulence of the summer of 2007. [227655]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers have had regular discussions with European colleagues, including the European Commission, on the appropriate international response to market turbulence.

Equitable Life

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report on the regulatory supervision of Equitable Life; and if he will make a statement. [227289]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 October, *Official Report*, column 1000W.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what net revenue was generated in 2007-08 from excise duty on *(a)* petrol, *(b)* diesel and *(c)* red diesel. [227884]

Angela Eagle: Historical excise duty receipts from diesel, petrol and red diesel (also referred to as gas oil) can be found in table 3 of the HM Revenue and Customs Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin, a copy of which can be found at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bulloil

Housing: Owner Occupation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment the Financial Services Authority has made of the level of risk of buying a house. [225444]

Ian Pearson: The FSA publishes information for consumers aimed at highlighting the risks involved in buying a home, available at:

http://www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk/guides/buying_a_home/buying_a_new_home.html.

Interest Rates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he next expects to meet the Governor of the Bank of England to discuss the level of UK interest rates; and if he will make a statement. [228790]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not comment on or have input into, individual interest rate decisions taken by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of

England. To do so would compromise the arrangements for independence of the Bank of England that the Government put in place in 1997 and would squander the credibility gains that have resulted from those arrangements.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer regularly has meetings with the Governor of the Bank of England, to discuss a wide range of issues.

Pension Funds: Housing

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to review his Department's decision not to allow the inclusion of residential property in pension funds. [227080]

Ian Pearson: The Government support the ability to choose a diverse range of assets to support pension saving in registered pension schemes.

Most registered pension schemes can already invest directly in residential property without any tax disadvantage and all pension schemes can invest indirectly in residential property without tax disadvantage.

Scheme members may not use tax relieved funds for personal use items such as second homes.

Private Finance Initiative

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many private finance initiative projects have not met their contractual obligations; for how many projects contracts have been re-registered; and how many projects have reverted to public ownership. [226335]

Yvette Cooper: A principle of PFI contracts is to protect the public sector from poor service delivery. This is achieved through the operation of the payment mechanism. Should a service provided through a PFI contract not meet the standard specified, the authority may make reductions in payments to the contractor in order to create an incentive to improve performance. Where this proves insufficient, it is possible that the PFI provider may be replaced by the funders. If that fails to resolve matters, it is possible for the contract to be terminated by the authority.

The Treasury does not hold information centrally on projects where this has occurred.

Tax Credit

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of those registered for tax credits were receiving payments in the most recent period for which figures are available. [225753]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of families benefiting from tax credits as at April 2008 is reported in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics April 2008". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many TC647 forms have been produced since their introduction; and how many unused forms have been *(a)* discarded and *(b)* recycled since their introduction; [227947]

(2) whether tax credits claimants are entitled to receive form TC647 on request. [227948]

Mr. Timms: For information on the number of forms produced up to and including 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave him on 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 307W. Around 1,000 such notices have been issued in 2008-09 to date.

TC647 calculation notices for tax credits awards made prior to 6 April 2006 are produced as a result of requests made by tax credits customers. Information is not kept on the number of TC647s discarded or recycled.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures his Department has taken to ensure that staff working in tax credit helpline call centres are trained about claimants' entitlement to be sent TC647 forms. [227949]

Mr. Timms: Advisers working on the tax credits helpline have access to on-line support and advice tools to help them in answering customers' questions. This is kept up to date and advisers are informed when changes are made to the tax credits system or when this guidance is amended.

Tax Yields: Betting

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was received from betting on *(a)* horse racing and *(b)* greyhound racing in Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available. [228234]

Angela Eagle: HMRC do not have geographic data on general betting duty, or a breakdown of the data into revenue received from betting on horse racing and greyhound racing. Total general betting duty is published in the HMRC Betting and Gaming bulletin, a copy of which can be found at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett

Taxation: EC Action

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Government was informed by the European Commission that it was considering proposing amendments to the Capital Adequacy Directive. [227653]

Ian Pearson: As outlined on page 4 of the European Commission's proposal to amend the Capital Requirements Directive, the Commission has been developing proposals since 2005.

The document can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/bank/docs/regcapital/crd_proposal_en.pdf

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Government received a copy of the European Commission's proposed amendments to directives 2006/48/EC and 2008/49/EC. [227654]

Ian Pearson: The Commission published its proposal to amend the Capital Requirements Directive on 1 October 2008.

A copy can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/bank/docs/regcapital/crd_proposal_en.pdf

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government has had discussions with the Leader of the Opposition and leaders of other UK political parties on the European Commission's proposals to amend EU directives 2006/48/EC and 2008/49/EC. [227656]

Ian Pearson: There have been no such discussions as far as I am aware.

Taxation: Property

Mr. Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many capital gains calculations were apportioned under principal private residence rules in each of the last five years; [227598]

(2) how many principal private residence elections have been made in each of the last five years; and how many such elections represent individuals making *(a)* two, *(b)* three and *(c)* four or more elections; [227600]

(3) what estimate has been made of the cost to the Exchequer in terms of tax revenue foregone of allowing individuals to elect their principal private residence in each of the last five years; [227599]

(4) what estimate he has made of the effect on capital gains tax revenues of trends in the sales of residential properties following the reforms to capital gains tax announced in the October 2007 Pre-Budget report. [227597]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

It is not possible to determine from HM Revenue and Customs sources the number of principal private residence relief elections made nor the cost to the Exchequer of such elections. The latest estimates for the cost of principal private residence relief excluding taxpayer behaviour are published in table 7 of the Tax Ready Reckoner on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_tax readyreckoner.pdf

Capital gains tax paid depends on the taxpayer's total gains, losses, and reliefs claimed so it is not possible to attribute amounts of tax to separate disposals. The latest available figures for the number of disposals, disposal value and gains made on assets disposed of in 2004-05 by type of asset, including residential property, are available in National Statistics table 14.4 on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/table14-4.pdf

Equivalent data for 2008-09, following the reforms to capital gains tax announced in the October 2007 pre-Budget report, will not be available until at least October 2011.

Mr. Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue foregone each year from not taxing capital gains by non-UK residents in relation to UK real estate in each of the last five years. [227605]

Mr. Timms: No estimate of the revenue foregone from not taxing capital gains on UK real estate owned by non-UK residents is available.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Credit

13. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on recipients of pension credit of the reduction of the backdating period for the credit. [227684]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department published an Equality Impact Assessment in respect of the proposed changes to the time for claiming pension credit from 12 months to three months. The report is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website.

19. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to increase take-up of pension credit. [227692]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We want every pensioner to claim the benefits they are entitled to which is why we have made claiming more straightforward. Many claims can now be made in one phone call with no forms to fill in and we are always looking at ways to make the application process simpler. We have a range of initiatives such as sophisticated data matching to ensure older people are aware of and take up their entitlements.

Remploy

15. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the modernisation of Remploy; and if he will make a statement. [227687]

Jonathan Shaw: Remploy's modernisation plan was announced to the House by the Secretary of State on 29 November 2007.

Remploy are currently implementing their five-year modernisation plan, which will see a greater emphasis on supporting more disabled people into mainstream jobs. This will be around 20,000 people per year by 2013.

The modernisation plan saw the closure of 18 factories and the merger of 11 sites with other local factories.

17. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on the modernisation of Remploy; and if he will make a statement. [227690]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill).

Post Office Card Account

18. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department expects to announce the successful bidder for the contract to provide the Post Office card account. [227691]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today by the Secretary of State to the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George).

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department will announce the result of the competition for the contract to provide the Post Office card account. [227672]

James Purnell: This is a commercial tendering process, bound by UK and European law. We will announce the outcome when that is completed.

Benefit Backdating

20. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people who will be affected by and *(b)*

the financial effects of reducing the backdating period for pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit. [227693]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department published an Equality Impact Assessment in respect of the proposed changes to the time for claiming pension credit from 12 months to three months. The report is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website. The financial effects of the changes to the backdating rules are included in the Command Paper which was laid in Parliament alongside the Regulations on 15 September.

Unemployment

16. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to assist the long-term workless to enter employment. [227689]

Mr. McNulty: Since their introduction, new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus have helped over a million job seekers into work.

We are modernising jobseeker's allowance and introducing the flexible new deal to build on our success, providing more personalised employment support matched with increasing expectations of someone as a claim continues.

Our recent Green Paper sets out a further range of options to reduce welfare dependency and support more people into work, to provide greater support and control for disabled people and to strengthen parental responsibility.

21. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of future trends in the level of unemployment in the UK. [227694]

Mr. McNulty: The jobseeker's allowance count rose last month to 939,000. There are 608,000 vacancies in the economy and 80 per cent of claimants leave jobseeker's allowance within six months.

While we do not predict future levels of unemployment, we are planning for the impact of higher levels of jobseeker's allowance claims in the coming months. Clearly this is a sensible approach given the expected trends during a time of slower economic growth.

Benefits Contract

22. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to award the contract for the delivery of work and pensions benefits. [227695]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I assume the hon. Member is referring to the contract to replace the post office card account. We will act in good time before the present contract ends.

Departmental Telephone Services

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what agencies or units for which his Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225710]

Jonathan Shaw: The main telephone numbers used by the Department for Work and Pensions are 0800 and 0845. The use of these 08 numbers allows the Department opportunities to reduce customer confusion by minimising the volume of contact numbers advertised to the extent the Department can control this to offer free calls or low cost calls to the majority of our customers.

For 0800 numbers, which are typically provided for our claim lines, the call is free for customers who use BT landline or public call box facilities. BT remains the service provider with the largest market share. Many other landline service providers do not charge for these calls, but this cannot be guaranteed by the Department as the contract is between the customer and his service provider and can be subject to change. Customers contacting us by their personal mobiles will be alerted that charges will apply if they proceed with the call and if the customer advises us that they are concerned about these charges we will call them back. Again the Department cannot control the charges made by mobile service providers.

For 0845 numbers BT customers pay a charge which is broadly the same as national call rates. Other service provider charges will vary and may be higher. Calls from mobiles are likely to be higher and again the Department will call customers back if they are concerned about the charges.

The Department is currently conducting a review of the issues associated with its numbers and the charges that apply to customers. However it recognises that the telecom market is constantly changing and any change the Department makes need to be sustainable.

The Department no longer receives any income from its use of telephone numbers used to access its services. Prior to December 2007 the Department did receive a rebate of £500,000 per annum on 0845 calls and this was used to help provide free call services for customers.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what date his Department expects to release to the hon. Member for Yeovil the information in respect of the traffic light system for written parliamentary questions, as required by the Information Commissioner's Decision Notice of 8 September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [224795]

Jonathan Shaw: The hon. Member for Yeovil received this information on 10 October.

Disability Living Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how frequently claimants of disability living allowance are assessed. [226165]

Jonathan Shaw: Once entitlement to disability living allowance is established, the frequency of reassessment varies according to the individual circumstances of the case. For example, a claim may be reassessed if a customer reports a change in their circumstances, or information is received suggesting that there has been a change of circumstances since the original award of benefit was made. In addition, where a fixed period award is nearing its end point, the customer is invited to submit a new claim which is then assessed on the current evidence before a new decision is made on entitlement. Other claims may continue throughout the period of the award without being reassessed.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 July, *Official Report*, columns 474-5W, on income support: lone parents, how many and what proportion of the 8,950 customer-facing staff have received specific training on the changes to the eligibility rules for income support affecting lone parents coming into effect in November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [226326]

Kitty Ussher: A holding replay was sent on Monday 13 October 2008.

The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie 20 October 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question pursuant to the Answer of 16 July, *Official Report*, columns 474-5W, on income support: lone parents asking how many and what proportion of the 8,950 customer-facing staff have received specific training on the changes to the eligibility rules for income support affecting lone parents coming into effect in November 2008. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We have made good progress in the last few months communicating to our customer-facing staff the changes that will be taking place and how these fit into the Government's welfare reform and child poverty agendas.

Our training delivery started on 13 October and we have in place arrangements to deliver over 350 learning events that would equate to 4,371 of our customer-facing staff being trained before the 'go live' date of 24 November. We have a phased rollout of training planned in line with the expected increase in volume of work.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1685W, on lone parents: income support, what progress has been made in developing a communication strategy to support the changes to the eligibility rules for income support affecting lone parents coming into effect in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and if he will make a statement. [226327]

Kitty Ussher: A holding reply was sent on 13 October 2008.

A communication strategy to support the changes to the eligibility rules for income support affecting lone parents has been agreed by DWP Communications and policy officials and is currently being implemented.

The strategy has a very clear focus on the need for timely and accurate communications to (1) customers affected by the changes, (2) Jobcentre Plus staff in roles impacted by the changes, and (3) external stakeholders involved in giving accurate advice to customers. We have ensured that all communications activities are properly co-ordinated, and fit with messages about the Government's wider agenda for increasing the number of people in paid work and reducing child poverty.

Key objectives of the communications strategy are to ensure that the following audiences receive co-ordinated, timely and tailored messages, as follows:

Existing lone parent customers and those making new or repeat claims to income support—understand the changes and how they will be affected.

Advisers working with customers—know how the changes will impact on them and their lone parent customers.

Stakeholders external to Jobcentre Plus—are clear on these changes and the effect they will have upon them and their customers.

To meet these objectives the strategy includes the following:

Mailshots sent direct to specific lone parent customers, which outline the effect that the changes may have on them, including new requirements for quarterly attendance at work-focused interviews and how their claim to disability premium could be affected (where relevant).

A further mailshot in November 2008 to lone parents affected, confirming that the changes have been approved by Parliament. This will be supported by local mailshots to offer voluntary interviews six weeks prior to the end of the lone parents' income support.

Providing lone parent customers with detail information factsheets that clearly outline the changes for them and the action they may need to take with the support of their adviser.

A leaflet and poster campaign to explain in visual format the steps each lone parent will take as the changes impact them.

Local 'Options and Choices' events for lone parents that explain the changes and offer advice and guidance in preparing for work (these have been in place since April 2008).

Publication of details of the changes on both the DWP and Jobcentre Plus Internet sites.

A range of products available to Jobcentre Plus staff to ensure that they are able to deliver the correct messages to customers including briefings, desk aids, presentations, key messages, links to guidance and supporting articles in internal publications. This also includes road shows delivered to senior managers to ensure understanding of the changes.

Numerous presentations to key external stakeholders and close engagement with external lone parent voluntary groups.

The same approach is proposed for introduction of Phase 2 of the changes in 2009 and Phase 3 in 2010. However, in spring 2009 we will evaluate the Phase 1 communications and feed these findings into communication plans for the next phases.

Jobcentre Plus: Occupational Health

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Jobcentre Plus spent on staff counselling in each of the last 10 years. [226169]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus, as an executive agency of DWP, has access to the DWP Employee Assistance Programme. This is a wide ranging service designed to provide advice, guidance and support on a range of issues. This includes counselling, for both employees and their dependants.

The costs for counselling have never been invoiced separately and therefore cannot be provided.

Pension Disability and Carers Service: Publicity

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pensions Service has spent on its Full of Life campaign; and how the performance of the programme will be measured against his Department's public service agreement. [226195]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The 'Full of Life' activity on and around Older People's Day was a broad-based effort coordinated by the Department for Work and Pensions and involving the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, Jobcentre Plus and a wide range of local and national stakeholders and local groups.

There was no budget allocated within the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, however, the Department for Work and Pensions has spent £238,396.43 to date on the 'Full of Life' campaign.

Supporting Public Service Agreement 17: Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and well-being in later life, the 'Full of Life' activity highlights and celebrates the huge contribution older people make to our society and communities, improving the awareness and take up of the range of services and support available to older people, as well as tackling stereotypes of older age.

'Full of Life' is part of a wider-strategy to deliver this PSA. Making progress against the indicators is an incremental and long term process and we would not expect to make a measurable impact on attitudes and behaviour as a direct result of Older Peoples Day 2008. In these early years we are aiming to establish the day and are evaluating awareness of the day, media coverage and the scale of participation on the day.

Pensioners: Carer's Allowance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider paying carers allowance to pensioners; and if he will make a statement. [225887]

Jonathan Shaw: Since October 2002 carers aged 65 or over have been able to qualify for carer's allowance on the same basis as younger carers. The general principle is that if a claimant qualifies for more than one non-means-tested income replacement benefit the higher benefit is paid. Therefore, if a carer is receiving a state pension they would not be paid a carer's allowance unless their state pension was less than the rate of carer's allowance.

Over 400,000 carers receive income-related benefits including income support, jobseeker's allowance, housing benefit, council tax benefit and pension credit which are paid at a higher rate because they are entitled to carer's allowance. The higher rate is paid even if the carer satisfies the qualifying rules for carer's allowance but receives a state pension at a higher rate and as a result cannot be paid carer's allowance.

Pensioners: Economic Situation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps the Government have taken to assist pensioners in the current economic climate; [226330]

(2) what recent steps the Government have taken to assist pensioners in reducing their household bills. [226331]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 October 2008]*: There is a statutory requirement to review all social security benefits each year and to increase certain benefits from April each year.

The increases are calculated for most benefits using the annual inflation figure for the preceding September. This ensures that benefits keep their real value in broad terms, and any fluctuations throughout the year feed into this rate.

In addition the Government continue to monitor the economic situation very closely.

The Chancellor announced in his Budget 2008 speech that for winter 2008-09 an additional payment will be made alongside the winter fuel payment. Households with a member aged 60 to 79 will receive an additional £50 and households with a member aged 80 or over will receive an additional £100. This makes the winter fuel payment £250 and £400 respectively for winter 2008-09 which provides a significant contribution towards an older person's winter fuel bill.

On 11 September 2008 the Government announced a new £1 billion package of measures to help people cut their energy bills. Measures on offer deliver significant energy savings including increased help with cavity wall and loft insulation. 11 million lower income and pensioner households are eligible for these free of charge. And for winter 2008-09 cold weather payments will increase in value from £8.50 to £25.00. Cold weather payments are made to vulnerable people in receipt of qualifying benefits, including pension credit, if there is a period of very cold weather in their area.

Addressing pensioner poverty has been one of the Government's key priorities since 1997. The number of pensioners in relative poverty in the UK has fallen from 2.9 million in 1998-99 to 2.1 million in 2006-07. Once housing costs are accounted for, pensioners are less likely to be in poverty than the population as a whole.

Pension credit, a key element of the strategy to tackle pensioner poverty, ensures no pensioner need live on less than £124.05 for single people and £189.35 for couples. It makes a difference to the income of millions of older people. Since pension credit was introduced in 2003 the number of pensioners in relative poverty has fallen by around 500,000.

Non-cash benefits in kind make a real difference to the lives of millions of UK pensioners. These include free NHS prescriptions and eye tests for those over 60 and free TV licences for those over 75. People aged over 60 and disabled people living in England are entitled to free England-wide off-peak bus travel, and similar schemes are available in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. British Citizens born before 2 September 1929 can apply for a free 10-year UK passport and from April 2009 local authorities will be able to offer free swimming to the over 60s, in a scheme jointly funded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Department of Health and Department of Work and Pensions.

Pensions Regulator: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the Pension Regulator has not replied to the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare's letters of 13 May, 23 June and 28 July 2008 on behalf of his constituent Mr. Leyshon; and when he will reply to those letters. [223326]

Ms Rosie Winterton: DWP officials have contacted the Regulator and they have confirmed receipt of your letter dated 13 May. They replied to this letter on 29 May. I have asked that this reply be sent on again to ensure you receive it.

Discussions with your constituency office have confirmed that there is now no need to reply to the letters dated 23 June or 28 July.

State Retirement Pensions: Automated Credit Transfer

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints his Department and its agencies received claiming that a pension has been paid into a bank account other than the nominated one in each of the last five years. [226154]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 1 April 2004, 154 such complaints have been received.

Source:

The Pension Service Respond data system.

Workers Registration Scheme: Greater London

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people registered on the Workers Registration Scheme there have been in each London borough in each year since the new scheme was introduced in May 2004. [227230]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office only records the regional distribution of workers from A8 countries when they first registered to the worker registration scheme. Data by local authority were published in August 2008 in concert with the Accession Monitoring Report (AMR) on the Local Government Analysis & Research (LGAR) website.

The following table shows the last published available data by local authority for the number of workers when they first registered to the worker registration scheme (WRS) in each London borough since the scheme was introduced.

Local authority	*May 2004to March 2006*	*April to December 2006*	*January to December 2007*	*January to June 2008*
Barking and Dagenham	250	85	135	50
Barnet	3,170	580	1,155	550
Bexley	285	85	130	60
Brent	2,160	685	1,070	405
Bromley	515	155	220	95
Camden	5,435	1,640	2,335	995
City of London	1,955	710	915	510
Croydon	1,225	390	610	265
Ealing	3,745	1,310	1,970	935
Enfield	1,175	465	625	295
Greenwich	750	340	485	205
Hackney	1,255	330	540	325
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,555	1,120	1,380	630
Haringey	1,650	410	580	305
Harrow	1,410	500	810	165
Havering	285	220	260	115
Hillingdon	2,785	875	1,355	560
Hounslow	1,785	670	1,045	440
Islington	1,715	505	745	410
Kensington and Chelsea	2 440	595	820	435
Kingston upon Thames	705	205	285	145
Lambeth	1,060	420	525	355
Lewisham	625	150	195	80
Merton	1,280	395	535	265
Newham	1,045	335	330	215
Redbridge	625	635	750	330
Richmond upon Thames	1,190	340	500	300
Southwark	3,110	845	1,220	560
Sutton	345	115	160	115
Tower Hamlets	1,515	585	845	360
Waltham Forest	900	275	505	210
Wandsworth	1,890	515	630	305
Westminster	11,745	3,270	4,260	2,145
Total	62,575	19,775	27,920	13,150

Notes:

1. 99 per cent. of approved nationwide applications currently have an accurate postcode. Applications where postcodes could not be matched to the Office of National Statistics database are excluded from this data-set.
2. Figures based on employers address and the date the application is approved, rather than the date on the application form as used in the Accession Monitoring Report.
3. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
4. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to total shown.
5. The table presents a gross (cumulative) figure for the number of workers applying to the WRS. The figures are not current, an individual who has registered to work and who leaves employment is not required to de-register, so some of those counted will have left the employment for which they registered and indeed some are likely to have left the UK.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 21 October 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission has taken steps to encourage the use of doorstep canvassing in increasing registration. [228702]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that under section 9A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 electoral registration officers (EROs) are required to visit, at least once, any property for which an annual canvass form has not been returned.

The Commission has produced comprehensive guidance for EROs, which outlines this legal responsibility. Prior to each canvass, the Commission issues a circular to EROs reminding them of this guidance.

In addition, the Commission has recently published performance standards for EROs. The standards cover the extent to which EROs use house-to-house inquiries to ensure that all eligible residents are registered. The Commission will publish its assessment of EROs' performance against the standards in spring 2009.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission has taken to measure the effectiveness of electoral registration officers in increasing levels of registration. [228703]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that in July 2008 it published 10 performance standards for electoral registration officers (EROs) covering the following key areas:

planning and organisation;
participation;
integrity and completeness; and
accuracy of the electoral register.

Three of these standards deal specifically with:

sources of information used by EROs to verify records on the electoral register and identify potential new electors;
sources of information used by EROs to ensure all relevant properties are included in the database; and
the extent to which EROs use house-to-house inquiries to ensure that all eligible residents are registered.

The Commission will shortly be assessing EROs against these standards and will publish an assessment in spring 2009.

Members: Misconduct

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many allegations of misconduct by hon. and right hon. Members the Electoral Commission has received in the last five years; how many such allegations it investigated; how many such allegations were dismissed *(a)* following an investigation and *(b)* without an investigation having been held; what the cost was of the 10 most expensive such investigations; and what the average cost was of investigations. [228704]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it received 16 allegations of misconduct against hon. and right hon. Members in the last five years.

The Commission further informs me that it opened formal investigations into four of these allegations. One of the investigations is ongoing; one resulted in a referral to the police and is presently pending; and one resulted in a voluntary forfeiture of a donation. The other case was closed without further action being warranted.

The 12 remaining allegations were dismissed or otherwise resolved without the need for a formal investigation.

The Electoral Commission does not record expenditure in relation to individual investigations and is therefore unable to provide costs.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227043]

Mr. Woodward: Due to the processes involved in making payments for expenses to officials, for both the Northern Ireland Office and its Executive agencies, it would only be possible to separate the reimbursement of taxi fares at disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Products: EU Action

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the EU Council of Ministers' common position on the Regulation for Placing Plant Protection Products on the Market on arable and horticultural production in England reached on 23 June 2008. [227323]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The pesticides safety directorate published an assessment of the agronomic impact of the restrictions set out in the Commission's original proposals in May 2008. The impacts of the common position are expected to be very similar. A copy of the assessment has been placed in the Library of the House.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to pay single farm payments to all farmers at the same time; and if he will make a statement. [228176]

Jane Kennedy: The EU payment window for the single payment scheme (SPS) runs from 1 December to 30 June and the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) aims to ensure that payments are made as early as possible within that payment window. However in line with detailed EU regulations, before making each payment, RPA is required to perform detailed validity checks including carrying out cross-checks against all other SPS applicants to ensure that there are no dual claims. The timing of each payment will therefore vary according to the complexity of the claim with simple claims processed and paid quickly and more complex claims taking longer.

In order to pay all claimants on the same day, RPA would have to delay making any payments until the last claim had completed validation.

Agriculture: Temporary Employment

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the return rate was of workers under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme in each of the last five years, broken down by country of origin. [227299]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not collected on the return rates of workers who have participated in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS).

Since 1 January 2008, SAWS has been restricted to Romania and Bulgaria. As European Economic Area nationals, there is no requirement for them to leave the United Kingdom upon completion of their SAWS placement.

Angling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to introduce angling-only areas; and if he will make a statement. [228047]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have no current plans to introduce sea angling-only areas. However, DEFRA is funding research to explore whether closing specific coastal areas to commercial fishing with nets and lines (alongside limits on angling such as catch and release requirements or bag limits) would improve sea bass survival. The project is also assessing whether such restricted-catch areas could provide benefits to anglers. Emerging results from this project will be published shortly and discussed with stakeholders, although the final report is not due until 2011.

In inland waters, the vast majority of fishing is by angling and in many lakes and rivers the only form of fishing allowed is angling. The Environment Agency has responsibility for regulating salmon and freshwater fisheries in England and Wales. It has a statutory duty to maintain, improve and develop these fisheries. The Environment Agency's approach is to seek to ensure first that target stocks of fish are maintained at satisfactory levels and that fishing is undertaken in a sustainable way. In some places only angling is permitted. Where different fishing methods are allowed, the level of fishing is regulated by controls on effort and the restrictions on exploitation are balanced between the types of fishing allowed, for example, between nets and rods.

Animal Welfare Act

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 856W, on the Animal Welfare Act 2006, when he expects to complete the review of the timetable for the delivery of secondary legislation and codes under the Animal Welfare Act 2006; when he expects to implement secondary legislation in relation to *(a)* racing greyhounds, *(b)* pet fairs, *(c)* primates as pets, *(d)* wild animals in circuses, *(e)* the cat code, *(f)* the dog code, *(g)* pet shops, *(h)* game birds, *(i)* animal (cat and dog) boarding, *(j)* tethering of horses, *(k)* livery yards, *(l)* riding schools, *(m)* animal sanctuaries and *(n)* performing animals; and if he will make a statement. [228140]

Jane Kennedy: The proposed timetable for the introduction of secondary legislation and codes under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 has been adjusted so that it takes account of those areas which parliament regards as a priority.

In 2009, the Department will be issuing a commencement order allowing s8(3)-(6) of the 2006 Act to come into force (provisions relating to the recording of animal fights); a cat welfare code; a dog welfare code; and an equine welfare code. In addition, it is proposed to issue the following consultation documents in 2009: draft proposals on regulating the welfare of racing greyhounds; a draft gamebird rearing code; a draft code on the private keeping of primates; and draft proposals on the transposition of EU legislation concerning the welfare of meat chickens.

It remains the Government's intention to review other animal related activities, in due course.

Animals: Electronic Tagging

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1075W, on animals: electronic tagging, when he expects the proposed Exemption Order under the Veterinary Surgeons Act in relation to permitting lay persons and non-veterinarians to wing and web tag non-farmed birds for conservation purposes to be in force; whether the exemption order has been drafted; whether he has consulted the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons on the exemption order; and if he will make a statement. [228141]

Jane Kennedy: The Exemption Order is in preparation and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons will shortly be consulted. We anticipate that the Exemption Order will come into force in spring 2009.

Badgers

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the badger population in England. [228191]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: Surveys of badger populations in Great Britain were undertaken in the mid-1980s and mid-1990s. In the mid-1980s the badger population was estimated to be 250,000 and in the mid-1990s a survey estimated the population to have increased by 77 per cent.

Bees: Diseases

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the additional £90,000, announced for research into bee colony collapse on 17 June 2008, has been allocated. [227328]

Jane Kennedy: This funding has been allocated to the National Bee Unit (NBU). The Welsh Assembly Government have also allocated an additional £30,000 to the NBU to investigate colony losses in Wales.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken in response to the reported 30 per cent. bee population loss in winter 2007; what assessment he has made of the potential impact of this loss on food security; and if he will make a statement. [227330]

Jane Kennedy: Reports of significant colony losses are being investigated as a high priority. To facilitate this, additional funds of £120,000 (£90,000 from DEFRA and £30,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government) have been allocated to the National Bee Unit to expand the investigations they started last year under a Horizon Scanning project into significant losses and to meet the demand for increased inspections of bee imports consequential to the colony losses.

DEFRA recognises the contribution that honey bees make to sustainable agriculture via their role in pollination and take seriously any threat to the sustainability of the beekeeping sector. The development of the Government's bee health strategy confirms our ongoing commitment to protecting and improving the health of honey bees and to sustaining and supporting beekeeping now and for future generations.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans that the penetration of bluetongue vaccination in UK livestock will reach 85 per cent. [227324]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccination against bluetongue in England and Wales is voluntary. Vaccine was first made available from 30 April 2008, and the Protection Zone was extended step by step as further vaccine consignments were delivered. Initial vaccine uptake was high—reaching between 80 per cent. and 90 per cent. in the South East and East of England, but uptake in the counties of northern England and in Wales has been lower.

To date the overall uptake of vaccine across the whole of England is about 60 per cent.

My Department has underwritten vaccine supply to ensure that it is available. Beyond that I have made no plans to reach specific levels of vaccination at specific times. Vaccination is the responsibility of the livestock industry. An industry-led communications campaign has promoted the benefits of vaccinating, and the risks of not doing so.

Vaccination in Scotland will be compulsory. The whole of Scotland will become a Protection Zone from 3 November.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the potential for bluetongue to transfer to calves in utero from infected cows. [227325]

Jane Kennedy: The most recent assessment on "in-utero" infection in calves was done following the discovery of Bluetongue Serotype 8 (BTV8) infected calves in Northern Ireland in February 2007 which were born to recently imported cattle ("Menzies et al 2008, Vet record, 163, 203-209") and the finding that some English cows infected in 2007 also transmitted the virus to their calves. These findings prompted new legislation to be brought forward at EU level on the export of pregnant cattle and resulted in the UK testing all calves born to imported cattle for evidence of BTV 8 infection. This is still subject to further investigation and research at the Institute for Animal Health in Pirbright, and elsewhere in mainland Europe.

As yet, there is no evidence in Europe of such "in-utero" transfer of BTV1 virus.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what level of take up there has been by British farmers of the bluetongue vaccine. [227799]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: Vaccination against bluetongue in England and Wales is voluntary. Vaccine was first made available from 30 April 2008, and the Protection Zone was extended step by step as further vaccine consignments were delivered. Initial vaccine uptake was high—reaching between 80 per cent. and 90 per cent. in the South East and East of England—but uptake in the counties of northern England and in Wales has been lower.

To date the overall uptake of vaccine across the whole of England is about 60 per cent.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that bluetongue vaccine is available to veterinarians in small bottles to reduce the price of the vaccine to smallholders. [227800]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: DEFRA has underwritten vaccine supply to ensure that it is available to farmers throughout England and Wales. Vaccine is available in a variety of bottle sizes (20 ml, 50 ml and 100 ml). This has provided livestock keepers with a choice as to which sized bottles they should purchase when vaccinating their stock to provide the best value for money.

Full pricing details are available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of animals have been vaccinated as a protection against bluetongue. [228180]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccination against bluetongue in England and Wales is voluntary, an approach agreed with the livestock industry. Vaccine was first made available on 30 April 2008, and the protection zone was extended step by step as further vaccine consignments were delivered.

The livestock population eligible for vaccination against BTV-8 in England is 26,419,472. Initial vaccine uptake was high—reaching between 80 per cent. and 90 per cent. in the south-east and east of England—but uptake in the counties of northern England and in Wales has been lower.

To date the overall uptake of vaccine across the whole of England is about 60 per cent., based on purchasing data. Because the approach to vaccination is voluntary, no exact figures can be provided about the numbers of livestock actually vaccinated.

Bovine TB Partnership Group

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with industry representatives on the constitution of the Bovine TB Partnership Group; and when he plans that the group should be operational. [227317]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has made clear that he is keen for Government to work in partnership with industry to develop a joint plan for tackling bovine tuberculosis. This offer to work in partnership remains open.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of animals which have been infected with M. bovis in each year since 1997, broken down by species; and if he will make a statement. [228139]

Jane Kennedy: The number of cattle slaughtered as a result of bovine TB control measures in each year in England since 1997 are shown in the following table:

	Number of cattle slaughtered under bovine TB control measures
1997	3,123
1998	5,027
1999	5,580
2000	7,190
2001	4,438
2002	18,443
2003	17,551
2004	17,306
2005	23,135
2006	16,007
2007	19,794

Note:

All data provided are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

Source:

Animal Health Database (Vetnet). 2005-07 data extracted on 18 March 2008; 1998-2004 data extracted on 7 March 2006, and 1997 data extracted on 5 March 2007.

In addition there have been a small number of cases of where *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) has been identified in non-bovine species. The identification of *M. bovis* in tissues and clinical samples from all mammals (excepting man) and the detection of suspect TB lesions in farmed and companion mammals (other than cattle and farmed deer), became notifiable only in February 2006.

DEFRA can only provide data on the number of *M. bovis* isolations from notified suspect clinical and post-mortem cases of TB arising in some non-bovine species. The relevant data for non-bovine species in England are given in the following table:

	Species	*Total number*
1997	n/a	0
1998	Deer	8
	Domestic cat	2
1999	Deer	9
2000	Deer	8
	Domestic cat	3
2001	Deer	1
2002	Deer	7
	Domestic cat	2
	Dog	1
	Domestic pig	1
	Sheep	1
2003	Domestic pig	8
	Alpaca	2
	Llama	1
2004	Domestic cat	6
	Dog	1
	Domestic pig	1
	Alpaca	1
	Sheep	3
2005	Deer	1
	Domestic cat	11
	Domestic pig	12
	Llama	1
	Sheep	2
	Ferret	3
2006	Deer	5
	Domestic cat	13
	Domestic pig	1
	Farmed wild boar	2
	Alpaca	1
	Llama	8
2007	Deer	1
	Domestic cat	14
	Domestic pig	5
	Goat	2
	Alpaca	2
	Llama	5

Source:

Veterinary Laboratories Agency TB Culture database

Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of options to alter the tabular system for home tuberculosis compensation payments, with particular reference to separating out compensation for premium and organic animals. [222669]

Jane Kennedy: A range of proposals for altering the table valuation system were presented to DEFRA by members of the Cattle Compensation Advisory Group (a stakeholder group set up in spring 2006 to monitor the roll-out of the table valuation system). We identified problems with these proposals—which focused on premium and organic cattle—and so did not take them forward.

The issue of whether a different approach is required when compensating for 'high value' cattle is at the heart of an ongoing legal challenge against DEFRA's table valuation based compensation system. DEFRA have lodged an appeal against the court's finding that it is unlawful to use table valuations for 'high value' stock. Any changes to the table valuation system will need to take into account the judgment of the Appeals Court, which is due to hear this case in March next year.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of pre-movement testing on the level of bovine tuberculosis in national livestock herds. [227340]

Jane Kennedy: We are continuously monitoring the impacts of pre-movement testing and key statistics are published on the DEFRA website each month. Evidence to date is encouraging and shows that new TB incidents are being prevented by pre-movement tests as well as Government-funded routine surveillance tests. The policy is also picking up infection earlier in high risk herds. Latest published data show that pre-movement testing led to the detection of 834 reactors in 458 herds in England between March 2006 and the end of July 2008.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to the impact introducing a bovine tuberculosis vaccine for cattle will have on Britain's tuberculosis free status; and what discussions he has had with the European Commission on this issue. [228377]

Jane Kennedy: Cattle vaccines for bovine tuberculosis are currently prohibited under EU legislation.

Our proposals for cattle vaccination are being developed with industry and we are aware of their concerns and the desire to maintain trade which is linked to Officially Tuberculosis (TB) Free status.

Cattle vaccines are based on BCG and this interferes with the tuberculin skin test. Vaccinated animals would therefore appear to be infected and herds could not be declared Officially TB Free. Therefore, as part of the UK research programme we are developing what is known as a differential diagnostic test to allow vaccinated animals to be differentiated from infected animals (DIVA). Changes will be required to the EU legislation to allow this test to be used in place of, or alongside the tuberculin skin test to confer Officially TB Free status.

The use of cattle vaccines has been discussed with the European Commission. The Commission has indicated that an accredited DIVA test will be critical for a cattle vaccination policy.

Cattle: Databases

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle are recorded on the cattle tracing system register; how many of those born after 1996 have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* not traced; and how many have an unreported final destination. [227003]

Jane Kennedy: There are a total of 39,747,916 cattle recorded on the cattle tracing system (CTS).

Farmers must keep accurate records and tell DEFRA of all cattle movements. If animals are lost or stolen, the keeper must report this to the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) who record details on the CTS. Of those cattle born after 1996, 65,722 (0.17 per cent. of the total) have been reported to CTS as lost or not traced, either by the keeper, or following a farm inspection, for reasons including alleged theft.

21,276 cattle born after 1996 have not yet had their final destination reported to CTS. In these cases, the animals' movement off their last location has been reported but the new keeper has yet to notify CTS.

Such movement anomalies are routinely followed up by BCMS who contact the previously known keeper with a view to establishing the whereabouts of the cattle.

Cattle: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of herd health plans being in place for 95 per cent. of dairy farms by 2010. [227318]

Jane Kennedy: We have made no assessment against this target, which is set out in the Milk Roadmap. The Roadmap was published in May 2008 by the Dairy Supply Chain Forum's Sustainable Consumption and Production Taskforce. Monitoring and reviewing the Roadmap is the responsibility of that Taskforce. The Taskforce is currently considering how best to monitor and report on progress against the Roadmap targets and to this end had an initial discussion at its first plenary session since the Roadmap was published on 10 October.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226954]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department does not hold a central record of Christmas functions, nor does its core financial system record a category for Christmas functions expenditure.

Council for Food Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the newly established Council for Food Policy Advisers will work with EU partners. [227010]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 6 October 2008 that he will be establishing a council of advisers on food policy. The Council will advise the Government on food affordability, security of supply and the environmental impact of food production.

Details of how the Council will work with EU and global partners will be discussed when the Council has been convened. The Council's primary focus will be on food production, distribution and consumption in the UK, but it will also consider the impacts of global trends.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the members are of the Council for Food Policy Advisers; and how they were selected. [227011]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 6 October 2008 that he will be establishing a council of advisers on food policy. The Council will advise the Government on food affordability, security of supply and the environmental impact of food production.

Further details including the membership of the Council will be announced in due course.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, if he will place in the Library figures for the air mileage incurred through departmental travel reported to his Department in order to calculate each departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund, for each participating government department, public body and agency in each year since the establishment of the Offsetting Fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul flights. [222200]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I will place in the Library of the House the air mileage(s) incurred and reported to DEFRA in order to calculate each departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF), for each participating Government Department, public body and agency for the financial year 2006-07. The figures are broken down to short haul and long haul flights as domestic flights were not captured. Figures for the financial year 2007-08 are close to completion, and I will place these figures in the Library of the House when they are available.

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many agencies were sponsored by his Department or its predecessors in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228511]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The 'Next Steps Report 1997' (Cm3889) provides information on all executive agencies as at 31 December 1997. Copies are available from the Library of the House. The most up-to-date list of executive agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication 'The List of Ministerial Responsibilities'. The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227474]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department has held one citizens' jury since 1 July 2007:

Citizens' jury	*Date*	*Cost (£)*	*Issues discussed*	*Number of Ministers attended*	*Number of members of the public*
Contemporary livestock farming and watercourse pollution: a citizens' jury approach	November 2007	19,740 excluding VAT[1]	Responses were gauged in relation to the understandings of risk associated with the microbial pollution of water courses; public attitudes to culpability given the current scientific and policy evidence base, particularly as this relates to the role of livestock farming; and consideration of public priorities in terms of appropriate level and types of policy intervention and mitigation.	None present	15 people from Devon

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[1] This includes the whole contract cost, of which the jury was included.

Ducks

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to regulate the farming of ducks. [227910]

Jane Kennedy: The welfare of ducks is provided for in the general provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007. DEFRA also has a welfare code. There are no specific EU wide standards for duck welfare.

Environment Protection

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in implementing the conclusions of the review of enforcement in environmental regulation; and if he will make a statement. [228493]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* DEFRA's Fairer and Better Environmental Enforcement Project is building on the conclusions of the review of Enforcement in Environmental Regulation. The project is exploring, in discussion with other Departments, the potential for environmental regulators to use the civil sanctions enabled by the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, which implements key recommendations of the Macrory report, 'Regulatory Justice: Making Sanctions Effective'. The project is also considering whether additional powers would assist the criminal courts in their role of sentencing serious environmental offenders proportionately and effectively. Any proposals that might result from this work will be the subject of full public consultation.

Environment Protection: Coastal Areas

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what sea defence projects are planned to be implemented in the next three years. [227849]

Jane Kennedy: The major new defence, refurbishment and beach management projects in Environment Agency and Local Authority programmes that are expected to provide improved protection against coastal erosion or sea flooding within the next three years, include the following locations:

Bexhill beach, East Sussex;
Cleveleys, Lancashire;
Denge beach, Dungeness, Kent;
Dymchurch, Kent;
Felixstowe, Suffolk;
Jaywick, Essex;
Pevensey Bay, East Sussex;
Stannah, Wyre Estuary;
Weston Super Mare, North Somerset.

The Environment Agency will fund other sea defence projects in the next three years that will deliver improved protection when they are completed, in 2011-12 and thereafter.

Fireworks: Noise

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authority enforcement actions have been taken against excessive noise from fireworks on private property in the last three years. [227820]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department does not keep statistics on enforcement action taken by local authorities on statutory nuisance from noise under Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Statistics on local authority enforcement action for statutory nuisances under Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 are kept by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, who collect them on a voluntary basis from local authorities.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to introduce primary legislation to implement the recommendations of the Report of the Review of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Legislative Project 2006, as recommended in the report; which recommendations of the Review of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries 2000 have been implemented; and if he will make a statement. [228052]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Review 2000 made 195 recommendations, 49 of which require changes to existing primary legislation. The Government accepted the majority of these 49 recommendations and made a commitment to introduce new legislation when parliamentary time so permitted.

The subsequent Review of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Legislative Project identified that proposals to address obstructions to the free passage of fish in inland waters could be introduced through powers to implement the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). A consultation on these proposals will be issued shortly.

Those recommendations, accepted by Government and identified as needing change to primary legislation and subsequently identified as critical by the Review of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Legislative Project 2006 informed chapter 3, part 7 of the draft Marine Bill, published in April this year. These remain an integral part of the Marine Bill, which will be introduced subject to the availability of parliamentary time.

Most of the recommendations which the Government accepted, and which do not require new primary legislation have been completed: for example, the introduction of wider range of payment methods for rod licences, and elver/eel catch returns. Others, while being addressed, will take longer to complete, such as addressing the problem of siltation arising from agriculture. A copy of the complete table will be made available in the House of Commons Library.

The Government are committed to ensuring that salmon, trout, eels and freshwater fish should be managed in a modern way; to protect stocks for sustainable fishing, to protect habitats and reflects the importance of angling to the rural economy in England and Wales.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the stock of native migratory and freshwater fish, broken down by species, in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [228053]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Native stocks of migratory and freshwater fish are subject to extensive annual monitoring by the Environment Agency through the collection of catch statistics, programmes of river surveys, and other scientific sampling. These data are used to assess significant changes in stocks at the river catchment (or individual stillwater) level so that appropriate management interventions can be made. 'Stock' estimates are only collated at a national level for salmon (table 1).

The Environment Agency recently published a snapshot review of the status of the migratory and freshwater fisheries of England and Wales "Our Nations' Fisheries". This report concluded that numbers of coarse fish (which includes 21 species) are increasing in many of our rivers, and sea trout are also generally doing very well. However, stocks of salmon and eel are depleted and this is thought to be due, in part at least, to environmental changes affecting the fish during the marine phases of their life cycles.

For salmon, detailed stock monitoring data are published annually in a report on the status of stocks and fisheries in England and Wales. Catch data for salmon and migratory trout, for both net and rod fisheries, are also published annually (totals provided in table 1). Such data are not systematically recorded and collated for other migratory and freshwater fish species. The aforementioned reports are available on the Environment Agency website at:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/fish/569882/?version=1&lang=_e

		Declared catches		
	Estimated number of spawning fish returning to England and Wales	*Salmon (Number)*[1]	*Sea trout (Number)*[1]	*Eels, yellow and silver only (Weight in tonnes)*[1]
1997	58,911	44,506	65,128	68
1998	57,017	42,288	75,468	58
1999	74,155	46,651	86,854	—
2000	101,713	68,594	87,344	—
2001	99,316	57,626	85,300	49
2002	88,925	53,561	86,814	24
2003	71,584	28,738	74,349	25
2004	87,575	43,917	62,155	10
2005	82,048	38,229	63,748	42
2006	74,464	33,087	49,580	36
2007	60,698	30,906	49,749	16

[1] Catch statistics do not provide a reliable measure of changes in stock size unless changes in exploitation rates are taken into account.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what stock management plans he plans to implement to improve migratory and freshwater fish stock numbers; and if he will make a statement. [228054]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency (EA) has responsibility for regulating salmon and freshwater fisheries in England and Wales. The Agency is implementing a number of management plans to maintain, improve and develop fisheries. It is now implementing its overall strategy for fisheries for 2006 to 2011, 'Better Fisheries for our Nations' that includes among its four key outcomes, improved fish stocks and a better environment for wildlife and people.

At the next level, the EA is implementing the National Trout and Grayling Fisheries Strategy published in 2003 and, earlier this year, the Agency initiated its new strategy (2008 to 2021) for 'better sea trout and salmon fisheries'. The EA has in place salmon action plans for 64 principal salmon rivers.

As required by the new European Eel Regulation, eel management plans are being drawn up for each of the 11 river basin districts (as defined for the Water Framework Directive) in England and Wales. Such plans are required to be submitted to the European Commission by the end of this calendar year.

The Water Framework Directive requires the production of river basin management plans to tackle the major impacts on the whole water environment and to work towards achievement of good ecological status. The measures within these plans will be important in supporting improved fish stocks. The plans are now being drafted and must be finally approved by Ministers in December 2009.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the forthcoming Commons Fisheries Policy reform is likely to lead to further decommissioning within the UK fishing fleet; and if he will make a statement. [228062]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Discussions on the reform of the common fisheries policy are still at a very early stage. As such, no assessment has been made on whether the outcome of the reform will result in further decommissioning of the UK fleet.

One of the key challenges facing the EU fishing fleet at present is the need to achieve a proportionate balance between the available stocks and the size of the fleet that exploits them, and this is likely to feature heavily in proposals for reform. We will need to consider whether the UK fleet, which has already been significantly reduced in pursuit of achieving this balance, should be subjected to further capacity reductions.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the provisions of the Commission Communication Fishing Opportunities for 2009 Policy Statement from the European Commission (COM(2008) 331 final); and if he will make a statement. [228066]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Communication was discussed at the June EU Council of Fisheries Ministers. The UK was generally supportive of its broad thrust. In particular, the emphasis on the desirability of long-term management plans for all stocks, focusing on achieving maximum sustainable yield (MSY). However, we raised some concerns over the Commission's proposed approach, including in relation to their premise that a lack of quota uptake alone should provide sufficient justification for a future cut in total allowable catch (TAC).

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been allocated to research on improving the selectivity of fishing gears in each year since 1997; how much he plans to allocate to research on the selectivity of fishing gears in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [228136]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA's Marine Fisheries Research and Development Programme has supported a range of research projects on improving the selectivity of fishing gears since 1997. The details of all projects funded since 1997, together with our planned spend in this area until 2013, are displayed in the following table.

Project code	*Title*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Total cost (£)*
MF0720	The biological and economic impacts of discarding by the UK east coast brown shrimp fishing fleet.	March 1997	September 1997	4,400
MF0615	An analysis of the selectivity processes within the beam trawl fisheries for Crangon crangon and identification of methods that could be used to improve their selectivity.	July 1997	December 1999	251,640
MF0706	Fishing gears with mitigating impacts.	January 2002	March 2005	379,913
MF0738	Gear technology, discard reduction, and environmentally friendly fishing studies.	April 2005	March 2008	539,987
MF1002	Practical steps towards reducing discards and developing more environmentally responsible fisheries.	April 2008	March 2013	1,185,871

In addition to the research funded through the Marine Fisheries R and D programme, DEFRA also acts as coordinator for the European Commission-funded MariFish ERA-NET (European Research Area Network) project which brings together the major European national funders of marine fisheries research to form an effective, working partnership. MariFish has recently launched a collaborative programme to address the problem of discarding in Europe. The collaborative programme has 14 European partners and 16 operators who have agreed to collaborate on their existing and planned discard projects. This may involve, for example, data sharing, exchange of staff and improved communication with, and involvement of, stakeholders at each stage of the programme plan.

The programme will cover technical aspects such as effort control, gear modification, real time closures and alternative fishing methods, but will also cover other important new areas such as survival of discards, use of cameras and new technologies and alternative management strategies.

The collaborative programme participants met for the first time in June 2008 to agree ways of working together, and are due to meet at the end of October 2008 to agree specific collaborative actions on how to bring their respective national research projects together to form a more cohesive programme.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 855-6W, on fisheries: Scotland, whether an assessment has been made of the effects of the decision of the Scottish Executive to implement a moratorium on licence and quota transfers; what legal advice he has received on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [228167]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Legal advice has shown the moratorium to be unlawful to the extent that it acts to prevent fishermen who re-register their boats to a different fisheries administration from taking their license and fixed quota allocations (FQAs) with them. Any vessel trying to re-register out of Scotland will therefore be treated in the same way as before the moratorium was announced. No formal assessments were carried out, as given our legal position, the moratorium cannot prevent the movement in licenses and FQA units.

Fisheries: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its predecessor gave to the Environment Agency in grant-in-aid for the Environment Agency's fisheries functions in England and Wales in each year since 1997; how much he plans to provide over the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [228055]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From 1997-8 to 2007-8, my Department provided grant-in-aid for the Environment Agency's fisheries functions as shown in the following table. Funding for fisheries functions in Wales has been the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government since 1999.

	MAFF/DEFRA GIA (£ million)
1997-8[1]	7.4
1998-9[1]	7.9
1999-2000	4.9
2000-1	4.8
2001-2	3.2
2002-3	5.8

	MAFF/DEFRA GIA (£ million)
2003-4	6.3
2004-5	6.3
2005-6	6.3
2006-7	5.9
2007-8	5.9

[1] Includes fisheries functions in Wales.

DEFRA's grant-in-aid for the Environment Agency's fisheries functions in England has been confirmed at £5.9 million for 2008-9 and 2009-10. The amount of grant-in-aid for 2010-11 and subsequent years will be subject to business planning decisions and the outcome of future Spending Reviews. The funding provided for the Environment Agency's activities in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1660W, on fisheries: quotas; what his estimate is of the fish stocks in UK waters that are *(a)* outside safe biological limits, *(b)* within safe biological limits, *(c)* have no safe biological limits defined and *(d)* have had no scientific assessment made; and if he will make a statement. [228069]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In terms of EU fisheries and quotas, 47 finfish stocks are of most interest to the UK. The complete picture for 2008 will not be available until after the final instalment of the annual ICES' advice is released in November.

The complete picture for 2007 can, however, be summarised as follows:

Of the 47 finfish stocks:

(a) 14 stocks are outside safe biological limits;

(b) 9 stocks are within safe biological limits;

(c) 6 stocks still have no safe biological limits defined; and

(d) 18 stocks have no scientific assessment.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quota swaps have been made in 2008; which cross-year swaps will affect UK quota in future years; and if he will make a statement. [228169]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On 15 October 2008, there have been 820 national quota swaps agreed by UK fisheries administrations between fishermens' groups within the UK and 66 international quota swaps agreed between the UK and other member states. Fisheries Administrations will consider proposals for cross-year swaps on an individual basis. Most cross-year swaps between 2008 and 2009 will not occur until later this year or early in 2009.

Fishing Catches

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1865-6W, on fishing catches, what progress has been made on the development of the EU Discard Atlas; and if he will make a statement. [228064]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In December 2007, the European Commission issued an open call for tenders in relation to Studies and pilot projects for carrying out the Common Fisheries Policy (Call No. FISH/2007/07). These studies included one which was intended to form the basis of the long-planned EU Discard Atlas. The study, which was lot four of the call for tenders, was required to provide a review of the current knowledge about discards in EU fisheries, and a feasibility study on a fisheries information system for these. Specifically, the aim of the project was given as:

> To compile and analyse all the information collected so far by the discard sampling programmes under the Data Control Regulation (DCR) on both the discarded and the retained fractions of the catch, in order to reply to questions such as how much, what, where and why discards occur. The study shall cover all main fishing regions of the EU: (i) the Baltic, (ii) the North Sea, (iii) the North Western Atlantic Waters, (iv) the Southern Western Atlantic Waters and (v) the Mediterranean.
>
> At the same time, to assess the feasibility of an information system offering easy and interactive access to fisheries data including information on fishing effort and catches. This feasibility study should consider, in addition to the geographical areas mentioned above, the Black Sea once data from that area is available through the DCR.

The study would have required extensive work and co-operation between all European marine fisheries research institutes, in order to achieve these aims. However, the finances on offer to perform the study were relatively limited, and as far as we are aware, no bids to do the work were submitted before the deadline of 25 February 2008.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of European Fisheries Fund money will be available for projects to reduce discards and bycatch in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [228067]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 498/2007, the UK EFF funds have been distributed across the priority axes and years of the Programme. Details can be found in Section 6 of the UK Operational Programme which is available via the DEFRA website.

Priority Axis 1 (measures for adaptation of the Community fishing fleet), and Axis 3 (measures of common interest) are linked with a number of objectives, including reducing discards and by-catch. We cannot pre-empt decisions as to which projects will receive EFF funding, but can confirm that projects which seek to reduce discards and by-catch will be considered a high priority.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of UK fish stocks that have been discarded in each of the last three years, broken down by species; and if he will make a statement. [228071]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Quantities of discards are estimated quarterly using data collected by scientific observers aboard commercial fishing vessels. They are required to record the quantity landed and discarded, and the species and size composition of the discards each time the fishing gear is hauled. Deploying scientific observers in this manner is expensive and time consuming, with the result that it is usually only possible to sample a small proportion of the overall fishing trips in a given area. As a result, it is necessary to extrapolate from the limited sampling to provide estimates for the entire fleet. Although the sampling is intended to cover a representative sample of the fleet, this does mean that the estimates of total discards are subject to uncertainty.

Estimated annual figures for discards of some important commercial species over 2005 to 2007 are given in the following table. The figures given are as follows:

Country	*Area*	*Species*	*Type*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
English and Welsh registered vessels	North Sea ICES sub-area IV	Cod	ND	2,082	2,083	641
			DR	47.3	62.1	40.6
		Haddock	ND	665	1,837	1,471
			DR	14.8	71.6	38.0
		Plaice	ND	1,900	1,975	1,102
			DR	70.4	36.3	74.7
		Sole	ND	13	351	373
			DR	5.1	26.8	30.1
		Whiting	ND	4,422	9,002	3,628
			DR	33.3	53.3	31.9
Scottish registered vessels	North Sea ICES Sub-area IV	Cod	ND	3,709	3,273	2,952
			DR	57.4	73.5	83.6
		Haddock	ND	84,038	59,314	48,735
			DR	28.0	65.4	72.9
		Whiting	ND	17,563	23,905	26,249
			DR	65.0	50.9	45.3
		Saithe	ND	3,930	4,169	4,389
			DR	64.2	57.6	75.3
Scottish registered vessels	West of Scotland ICES Division VIa	Cod	ND	170	144	145
			DR	62.3	86.7	89.8
		Haddock	ND	5,165	9,856	5,765
			DR	78.2	69.8	74.0
		Whiting	ND	452	489	1,114
			DR	96.7	95.8	75.1
		Saithe	ND	764	1226	511
			DR	64.2	62.0	52.5

Note:
DN: Estimated number discarded (thousand)
DR: Discard rate (percentage of total catch in numbers that is discarded)

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports he has received on allegations that the fishing vessel Prolific discarded in UK waters fish that were caught in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone; and if he will make a statement. [228132]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Norwegians have made their concerns known to me. We are now working with them, the Commission and other member states to deliver a package of measures which will make our fisheries more sustainable in the future and significantly reduce the scale of discarding.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of fish caught within the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone by UK vessels and discarded in UK and other EU member state waters in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [228133]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Information on the scale of such discards is not available.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 708W, on fishing: catches, whether there has been an improvement in the discard data received by the European Commission; whether the provisions of Council Regulation 1543/2000 in relation to collecting discard data are now being met by all member states; whether the Commission has taken any action against those member states not providing discard data; and if he will make a statement. [228137]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The answer of 12 December 2007 refers to a report by the Subgroup of the Commission's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) on the Assessment of the EU's Fishing Effort Regime. This group has met again during 2008, but its final report is not yet available. However, I understand that there have been improvements in the provision of discard data in the interim, with information provided to the 2008 meetings by Belgium, France and Denmark for the first time. Some countries, including Ireland, collect discard data, but this is not used by the Subgroup for technical reasons.

I am not aware of whether the Commission is taking action against member states that are still not providing the requisite information.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency has spent on building flood defences in 2008. [227768]

Jane Kennedy: The following table identifies the capital, revenue and local levy expenditure from the start of the financial year to the end of September 2008. The figures are in line with the Environment Agency's expenditure forecast.

Flood defence grant in aid expenditure—year to date

£ million

Regions	*Capital (Actual)*	*Revenue (Actual)*	*Local levy (Actual)*	*Total expenditure*
Anglian	37.9	17.3	2.4	57.6
Midlands	9.7	11.2	0.5	21.4
North-east	9	10.4	1.2	20.6
North-west	9.3	12.4	1.7	23.4
Southern	5.8	11.8	0.4	18.0
South-west	11.5	12.7	3.2	27.4
Thames	11.6	20.8	6.0	38.4
Total English regions	94.8	96.6	15.4	206.8
Head office	10.4	25.2	—	35.6
Total FDGiA expenditure	105.2	121.8	—	227.0

The Environment Agency has also paid out £19.5 million of grant to local authorities and internal drainage boards for coastal and non main river projects that they are delivering.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent per head on flood protection in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in 2007-08. [227915]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency directs flood risk expenditure into areas which are most at risk of flooding, it does not make a distinction between urban and rural when defining flood risk.

In the 2007-08 financial year, the Government provided approximately £600 million funding for effective management of flood and coastal erosion protection in England.

Floods: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding is available from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency for communities for solutions to their flooding problems; and what the reasons were for the rejection of the Water 21 bid from Gloucestershire by his Department. [225436]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency's flood alleviation schemes are funded either through DEFRA grant in aid or from a local levy on councils by the Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC).

The Environment Agency aims to work with communities at risk of flooding to devise technically and environmentally feasible schemes which can be put forward to the RFDC for local levy funding.

In the Midlands region the Environment Agency is currently putting 22 candidate local levy schemes forward to the RFDC. The decision on which ones will be funded lies with the RFDC members and will include consideration of relative costs and benefits.

A number of communities have also raised their own funding towards the cost of flood defence schemes and contributions may also be available from public authority departments (such as highways), increases to parish council precepts, local fundraising events and individuals.

The Water 21 bid is promoted by the Gloucestershire Local Strategic Partnership and while the Environment Agency was a consultee it was not a funding decision maker.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for reducing the budget for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in 2009-10 compared to 2008-09. [228049]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The overall budget for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in 2009-10 has yet to be finalised.

Koi Herpesvirus

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to prevent the spread of koi herpesvirus outbreaks; what estimate he has made of the number of koi herpesvirus outbreaks in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [228134]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government make a significant contribution to protecting fish against disease. Legislation was introduced in April 2007 which brought in for the first time domestic controls of koi herpesvirus (KHV) and made it a notifiable disease in the UK. We will be bringing in shortly broad legislation to implement Council Directive 2006/88 and to provide further protective measures against spread of disease. These notably will include the requirement for fish farms and importers of ornamental fish to be authorised and for angling clubs to be registered. Prior to KHV disease becoming notifiable in April 2007, outbreak numbers were not officially recorded and so are unreliable. Since April 2007 there have been 22 confirmed outbreaks, 10 cases in 2007 and 12 new outbreaks confirmed so far this year.

Marine Animals: Biodiversity

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his latest assessment is of the effect that non-native species are having on the UK's marine environment and freshwater fisheries; and if he will make a statement. [228076]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Novel alien species continue to appear in UK waters. Pathways include entry via commercial shipping (e.g. hull fouling, ballast water transfers) and the pet trade (aquarium and garden pond plants and animals released by the general public to open waters). The complexity of the aquatic environment means the impact of non-native fish introductions on our freshwater fisheries is often difficult to detect.

It has long been recognised that the spread of non-native species can have far-reaching and undesirable ecological consequences for animal and plant communities in the marine environment and freshwater fisheries. Introduced non-native fish can have direct effects on native species, for example by predation, competition (for space and food) hybridisation (inter-breeding), or can upset the natural balance that operates between native species. Non-native species can also introduce and spread novel diseases and parasites to which our native species may have little or no resistance.

Once established it can be extremely difficult and costly, and in some cases impossible, to control or eradicate an invasive species. While not all introduced non-native species will become invasive, they can still have adverse impacts. Given this, and the fact that their precise impact can be unpredictable, a precautionary approach is appropriate for managing the keeping and release of such species.

My Department recognises the threats that non-native species can pose to marine and freshwater environments and has supported the development of risk analysis protocols to identify introduced species of potentially high risk, and where possible to assess in advance the impacts posed by these species. Following on from the DEFRA review of non-native species policy, a body has now been established, the GB Non-native Species Mechanism, to review the problems posed by non-native species and, as appropriate, to co-ordinate control and eradication measures by the appropriate agencies.

The key measure in controlling the spread of non-native fish has been the Import of Live Fish Act (ILFA). Under the ILFA Orders it is illegal to keep or release any of the listed species in any water (including tanks and ponds) without a licence. Any person wishing to hold, keep or release any of the listed species is required to be in possession of a licence before obtaining the fish. Some introductions of species already present in England and Wales are allowed, where there is demonstrable benefits and there is no risk to the wider environment. But, there is a presumption against approving consents for the introduction of new non-native populations.

In Wales the Welsh Assembly Government are looking into reintroducing consents under the Molluscan Shellfish (Control of Deposit) Order 1974 to attempt to prevent accidental introductions and the countryside council for Wales along with the main mussel producers in the Menai Straits have produced a code of good practice to avoid introductions. The countryside council for Wales have also distributed 'wanted cards' to help identify 8 marine non-native invasive species.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to *(a)* prevent non-native invasive species entering the UK and *(b)* remove non-native invasive species already present in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [228077]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and the devolved administrations operate regimes which aim to prevent the entry of certain non-native species into the UK, such as inspections under plant health legislation. In the course of their work DEFRA's plant health and seeds inspectors and their equivalents in the devolved administrations inspect consignments of plants and plant products to ensure that they are free of non-native plant pests and diseases of concern.

However some non-native species legitimately used, for example in horticulture, as pets or in research can also have the potential to become invasive. It is important therefore to prevent their introduction into the wild. In May, jointly with the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly Government, my Department published the Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy' for Great Britain. This sets out our proposals for more effective and better co-ordinated action to tackle invasive non-native species. Prevention of the introduction of such species into the wild is one of the key themes to which other parts of the strategy will also contribute. In addition to existing measures such as legislative controls under wildlife and fisheries legislation we plan to implement a structured programme of work on raising awareness and education both generally and in a targeted way, developing effective risk analysis capacity, implementing online reporting with improved surveillance and monitoring, and to develop capacity to respond quickly to future threats.

Management of invasive species already established in the UK must be considered on a case by case approach which will take into account the feasibility and scale at which action could effectively be taken. The Strategy offers a framework for such decision-making at a national scale. Control options will vary from national, regional or local eradication to management or containment.

Northern Ireland is working with the Republic of Ireland on a similarly strategic approach.

Marine Bill: Draft

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations and interests will be represented on the proposed Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities under the Marine Bill, if enacted; and if he will make a statement. [228048]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The maximum size of each Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) shall be 21 members. The organisations and interests to be represented on each IFCA, and their relative split, include:

One Marine Management Organisation member;

One Environment Agency member;

One Natural England member;

Maximum seven local authority members;

Maximum 11 persons acquainted with the needs and opinions of the fishing community, and persons with knowledge of, or expertise, in marine environmental matters.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many marine conservation zones he plans to establish under the provisions of the Marine Bill if enacted; what sea areas this will cover; and if he will make a statement. [228068]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is too early to predict the number, size or location of marine conservation zones (MCZs) that will be designated under the proposed Marine Bill. This will depend on the outcome of work which will be undertaken with involvement from stakeholders over the next three years.

Our intention is that the Bill should provide for MCZs to be designated in those areas of the sea over which the UK Government have responsibility, that is English territorial waters and all UK offshore waters. The Welsh Ministers are also seeking powers, through the Bill, to designate MCZs in Welsh territorial waters.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to retain the provisions relating to coastal access in the Draft Marine Bill in the Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement. [228078]

Hilary Benn: Yes.

Moorings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many residential moorings his Department has registered; and what the location of each is. [227616]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested is not held by this Department. The practice for the registration of residential moorings varies between navigation authorities and it is not possible to produce a consistent list of all residential moorings.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 737W, regarding British Waterways licensed residential moorings in England.

Oil: Waste Disposal

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Waste Oils Protocol project to be complete. [226131]

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Waste Oil Protocol project to be complete. [226464]

Jane Kennedy: The public consultation on the Waste Oils Protocol was launched on 28 July 2008 by the Environment Agency and the Government funded Waste and Resources Action Programme, and will close on 20 October. It is anticipated that a post-consultation draft of the protocol will be submitted to the European Commission in January 2009 for notification as a technical regulation in accordance with the Technical Standards Directive (98/34/EC). Subject to no substantial difficulties arising from this notification, the final protocol will then be published in August 2009.

Oil: Waste Management

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Treasury as to whether the rate of duty to be applied to waste-derived fuel oil from 1 November 2008 is consistent with Government obligations under the Waste Framework Directive to encourage the recovery and reuse of waste. [226817]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste Oil Directive requires member states to ensure the collection and correct management of waste oil and to take measures to give priority to the regeneration of waste oil above combustion. As a specific measure applying to waste oil, the Waste Oil Directive takes precedence over the Waste Framework Directive.

It is the view of the Government that the duty regime applicable to waste derived fuel oil from 1 November 2008 should have no adverse effects on the volume of waste oil collected, as correct management of hazardous waste is a legal requirement. Waste oil has a value and there will continue to be a demand for waste-derived fuel. A higher duty rate for waste-derived fuel could also encourage the provision of regeneration of waste oil in preference to combustion.

I have not held discussions on this issue with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but officials in my Department are in regular contact with officials in HM Revenue and Customs on this issue.

Primates: Pets

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward legislation to prohibit the keeping, selling, buying and training of primates as pets. [228353]

Jane Kennedy: There are no proposals to introduce legislation to prohibit the keeping, selling, buying and training of primates as pets.

However, as a result of concerns raised during the passage of the Animal Welfare Act through Parliament, the Government intend to introduce a code of practice on the keeping of primates as pets. We are in the process of setting up a working group of experts to consider the standards that should be included in the code. Members include representatives of zoos, primate sanctuaries, specialist vets and private keepers.

The code is intended to help owners and keepers to meet their statutory duty to provide for the welfare needs of their animals. While it will not be a specific offence to fail to comply with the code, it could be used in court as evidence to support a prosecution brought under the Animal Welfare Act. The code will be subject to consultation and approved by Parliament. We hope that the code will come into force next year.

Rabbits

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to regulate the farming of rabbits. [227376]

Jane Kennedy: The welfare of rabbits is provided for in the general provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, and the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 has a specific schedule relating to rabbit welfare. DEFRA also has a welfare code for rabbits. There are no specific EU wide standards for rabbit welfare.

Rats

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of *(a)* the size of the UK rat population and *(b)* the areas most affected by rat infestation. [228011]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not have data on the size of the UK rat population.

Data on rodent infestation in domestic dwellings are obtained from the English House Condition Survey (EHCS). The detailed findings for 2001 are summarised in the report 'Rodent infestations in domestic properties in England, 2001'. The EHCS only provides an estimate of the proportion of dwellings with rat infestations inside or outside. It does not provide definitive data on numbers of rats.

The 2001 report indicated that there may be a higher occurrence of rats within urban and rural areas when compared to suburban areas.

In May, DEFRA published an interim report on rodent presence in domestic properties from the EHCS data for 2002-03 and 2003-04. The key findings were that the occurrences of rats in these years are not significantly different from those observed in 2001.

A further detailed report is anticipated for publication in spring 2009.

Rural Areas

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government is taking to protect and support the sustainability of village life in England. [227916]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are committed to supporting the sustainability of all communities, including those in rural areas. Evidence shows that, overall, rural areas are performing well in comparison to their urban counterparts, although there are some problems around housing and local economies.

The Government welcome Matthew Taylor MP's recent report on housing and planning in rural areas, which makes a number of important recommendations on the sustainability of rural communities, and will be producing a formal response to that report in due course.

The Government's policies to promote stronger, more sustainable communities through enhancing the quality of life, increasing affordable housing, tackling crime, raising educational standards, developing economic potential and improving local accountability apply equally in rural and urban areas.

Seas and Oceans: Biodiversity

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 712W, on seas and oceans: biodiversity, whether he has finalised the network of Natura 2000 marine area sites; and if he will make a statement. [228050]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Our programme of data collection and survey work is continuing to identify further sites to complete the UK Natura 2000 network. We hope to have the network substantially complete by 2012.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the provisions of the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the role of the CFP in implementing an ecosystem approach to marine management (COM(2008) 0187 final); and if he will make a statement. [228065]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK remain fully committed to the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and is fully supportive of the draft Council Conclusions on the Commission's Communication, which are to be agreed at a forthcoming EU Council of Ministers.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 712W, on seas and oceans: biodiversity, what reports he has received on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee on offshore sites being damaged by fishing activities; and if he will make a statement. [228164]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), our scientific advisers, have not indicated that potential offshore sites are being damaged by fishing activities. If the JNCC did indicate that such damage was occurring, we would approach the Commission to ask them to consider proposing protective measures.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 712W, on seas and oceans: biodiversity, whether he has submitted an initial tranche of candidate offshore special areas to the European Commission; and if he will make a statement. [228165]

Huw Irranca-Davies: An initial tranche of candidate offshore special areas of conservation (cSAC) were submitted to the European Commission on 29 August 2008. These included the sites at Braemar Pockmarks, Darwin Mounds, Haig Fras, Scanner Pockmark and Stanton Banks.

Two sites have been delayed pending resolution of issues arising during public consultation: North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reefs, and Wyville Thomson Ridge. DEFRA officials are working to resolve these issues and these sites will be considered for submission to the Commission at the earliest opportunity.

Sheep: Ear Tagging

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementing the proposals for electronic identification of sheep on *(a)* the sheep industry and *(b)* hill farmers. [227533]

Jane Kennedy: A Regulatory Impact Assessment has been produced for England, a copy of which is available on the DEFRA website. An updated version to take account of changes to Council Regulation 21/2004 that were negotiated over the summer and more detailed implementation options will accompany the consultation that is planned for the spring.

Electronic identification of sheep is an EU requirement, but the administration and implementation of it is an issue for devolved administrations.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the effects of electronic identification on the UK sheep industry. [227537]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met with Commissioner Vassiliou on 29 September to press for a review of Council Regulation 21/2004, which provides for the mandatory implementation of electronic identification (EID).

The Commissioner indicated that there were no plans for a review of the Regulation before 31 December 2009 when EID is due to be implemented.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings he has had with farmers' representatives from *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Wales on the European Commission's plans for electronic identification of sheep. [227538]

Jane Kennedy: The implementation and administration of electronic identification (EID) of sheep in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is an issue for the devolved administrations.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State did however meet with representatives of the NFU, NFU Scotland, NFU Wales, National Sheep Association, British Meat processors Association, Livestock Auctioneers Association and the Association of Independent Meat Suppliers on 30 June to discuss EID.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings he has had with his counterparts in each of the devolved administrations on the European Commission's plans for electronic identification of sheep. [227539]

Jane Kennedy: As part of the normal course of business, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State talks to his devolved counterparts on a variety of issues, including electronic identification (EID). DEFRA officials also meet with their devolved counterparts to discuss EID on a regular basis.

A UK EID Project Board has also been established, which includes representatives of the devolved administrations, to take decisions on EID on a UK basis.

Special Areas of Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 41W, on special areas of conservation, whether Natural England has identified further sites that should be selected as special areas of conservation; and if he will make a statement. [228166]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Further to the reply of 10 December 2007, Natural England is developing proposals for eight special areas of conservation (SACs) in inshore waters following survey work last summer. It is at the stage of considering potential boundaries for the areas of qualifying habitat that they have identified. Once the proposed boundaries have been identified, they will be agreed by Natural England's board before being forwarded to DEFRA. The areas involved are:

Inner Dowsing, Race bank and North Ridge (Outer Wash);
Haisborough, Hammoond and Winterton (Outer Wash);
Margate Sands and Long Sands (Outer Thames);
Lyme Bay to Poole Bay Reefs;
Prawl Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone Reefs;
Lizard Point;
Lands End and Cape Bank; and
Shell Flats and& Lune Deep (Morecambe Bay).

Water Supply

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to ensure water companies maintain pipe work and mains to high standards. [227813]

Jane Kennedy: Each water company is required to maintain its assets so that it can provide services to consumers over the long-term, while protecting the environment. In its role as the independent economic regulator for the water industry, Ofwat monitors how well each company is maintaining its assets in its annual serviceability assessments. Serviceability is the capability of a system of assets to deliver the right level of service to consumers now and in the future.

During price reviews, Ofwat assesses each company's outputs and its plans for future maintenance. Price limits are set at a level that allows for sufficient maintenance of the asset systems.

Companies that have had a deteriorating assessment have been required to produce action plans to deliver stable serviceability.

In February 2006, Ofwat wrote to all water and sewerage companies (MD212, 'Asset Management Planning to Maintain Serviceability'). This signalled Ofwat's intention that if a company cannot demonstrate stable serviceability at the price review in 2009 it will treat this as a shortfall in delivery. Shortfalls are where a company fails to deliver outputs, targets or service levels specified in price limits. Ofwat recovers the money set aside for these, on behalf of customers, when it next sets price limits.

A further letter (PR09/06, 'Setting Price Limits—Logging Down and Shortfalling' in November 2007) sets out how shortfalls would be applied in respect of failure to deliver serviceability outputs (section 2.1). This has focused the attention of the water and sewerage companies on the issue.

Ofwat's work over the last few years has culminated in its ability to report a marked improvement in serviceability for 2007-08. Details of these and other regulatory actions are set out in Ofwat's set of reports on company performance which can be found on the Ofwat website.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to ensure water companies provide safe and clean water. [227814]

Jane Kennedy: The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) was formed in 1990 and acts as the independent regulator of the quality and safety of the public water supply in England and Wales.

The powers and duties of the inspectorate set out in the Water Industry Act 1991 were strengthened by the Water Act 2003.

Scrutiny of the water companies by the inspectorate has resulted in improved compliance with European drinking water standards from 95 per cent. in 1991 to 99.96 per cent. in 2007. On the advice of the inspectorate, the drinking water regulations were amended in 2007. These changes introduced a requirement for water companies to implement a risk management approach to water safety.

Water: Low Incomes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Government have taken to assist low income families with paying their water bills; [227811]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to assist low income families in reducing water bills. [227812]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are aware of concerns about the level of water charges and the issue of affordability is one which the Government take very seriously. The cross-Government review of water affordability in December 2004 recommended:

the vulnerable groups regulations should be extended to increase eligibility. Since publication the regulations have been extended to include children under 19 and in full-time education and a more inclusive list of qualifying medical conditions;

a local pilot scheme on water affordability should be carried out. The pilot study is complete and the results are available on DEFRA's website;

companies should spread and deliver best practice. DEFRA has worked closely with the Consumer Council for Water and other stakeholders to encourage best practice by companies in administrating the vulnerable groups tariff; and

studying the effects of the charging system. DEFRA has been working closely with water companies and Ofwat to look at the likely distributional consequences of a range of tariffs for water consumers and will report to Ministers later this year.

In August 2008 DEFRA launched an independent review of water charging and metering, which is led by Anna Walker and will look in particular at social, economic and environmental concerns. The review is due to conclude in spring 2009.

Whales: International Cooperation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will *(a)* update and re-issue the Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility document and *(b)* send the document to all governments intending to attend the 61st annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Portugal between 22 and 26 June 2009; when he next plans to discuss whaling with his foreign counterparts; and if he will make a statement. [228072]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has led efforts to recruit more conservation-minded countries to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) through our publication "Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility" (endorsed by the Prime Minister and Sir David Attenborough), which has already been sent to over 60 countries urging nations to protect these species worldwide.

It will be sent to any countries that have recently, or could potentially, join before the 61st meeting of the IWC (IWC61) in Portugal. There is no need to update the publication at this time.

The UK has also recently circulated a document to members of the IWC entitled "The International Whaling Commission—the way forward". This document encourages countries participating in the current discussions over the future of the Commission, to ensure the conservation of cetaceans remains the highest priority.

Along with colleagues in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, DEFRA will continue to engage in discussions with our counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of deploying troops abroad was in each year since 1997. [219850]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The costs of deploying troops on military operations are calculated on a net additional basis and audited figures are published each year in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts. Costs of peacekeeping operations for financial years 1997-98 to 2006-07 were:

Military Operations - Costs: 1997 to 2007

		Current prices (£ million) *Total Outturn*
Total Peacekeeping Costs: 2006-07		1,754
	Of which:	
	Balkans (Bosnia/Kosovo)	56
	Afghanistan	742
	Iraq	956
Total Peacekeeping Costs: 2005-06		1,220
	Of which:	
	Balkans (Bosnia/Kosovo)	63
	Afghanistan	199
	Iraq	958
Total Peacekeeping Costs: 2004-05		1,064
	Of which:	
	Balkans (Bosnia/Kosovo)	87
	Afghanistan	67
	Iraq	910
Total Peacekeeping Costs: 2003-04		1,462
	Of which:	
	Balkans (Bosnia/Kosovo)	103
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1
	Afghanistan	46
	Iraq	1,311
	Sierra Leone	1
	EUFYROM	1
Total Peacekeeping Costs: 2002-03		1,390
	Of which:	
	Kosovo	105
	Bosnia	81
	Gulf	45
	Afghanistan	311
	Iraq	848
Total Peacekeeping Costs: 2001-02		557
	Of which:	
	Kosovo	142
	Bosnia	93
	Gulf	61
	Sierra Leone	40
	Afghanistan	221
Total Peacekeeping Costs: 2000-01[1]		382
	Of which:	
	Kosovo	220
	Bosnia	120
	Gulf	25
	Sierra Leone	17
Total Peacekeeping Costs: 1999-2000		461
	Of which:	
	Kosovo	325

Military Operations - Costs: 1997 to 2007

		Current prices (£ million) *Total Outturn*
	Bosnia	108
	Gulf	28
Total Peacekeeping Costs: 1998-99		196
	Of which:	
	Kosovo	14
	Bosnia	147
	Gulf	35
Total Peacekeeping Costs: 1997-98		402
	Of which:	
	Bosnia	386
	Gulf	16

[1] Prior to Financial Year 2001-02 costs were recorded on a cash accounting basis and therefore are on a different basis to subsequent years where recourse accounting costs are included.

The following estimated costs for operations in 2007-08 were included in Spring Supplementary Estimates published in February:

	£ million
Afghanistan	1,582
Iraq	1,648
Balkans	31

Final figures will be published shortly in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts for 2007-08.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the 20 per cent. threshold for war disablement pensions was set at that level. [222530]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since World War 1, the nature and amount of awards under the War Pension Scheme has depended on the assessed degree of disablement due to service.

Assessment of the degree of disablement is by comparing the condition of the individual as disabled by service with the condition of a normal healthy person of the same age and sex. From this time a distinction has always been drawn between assessments of under 20 per cent. and those of 20 per cent. or more. The reason why the threshold was originally set at 20 per cent. is not known.

Before 1 April 1962, awards to "other ranks" with an assessment of less than 20 per cent. were in the form of a weekly allowance for a prescribed period followed in some cases by a terminal lump sum gratuity. For officers only gratuities were paid. A change in 1962 aligned the treatment of all members of the armed forces, so that since that date, all awards for disablement assessed at less than 20 per cent. have been in the form of a one off gratuity, regardless of rank.

Assessments of 20 per cent. or more have always given rise to a continuing pension for all ranks. As part of a periodic review of the War Pension Scheme one of the options under consideration is to raise the 20 per cent. assessment level at which a pension becomes payable for new claims.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the appropriateness of the minimum age at which people can join the armed forces; and if he will *(a)* make it his policy that those under the age of 18 years may not take a direct part in hostilities in any circumstances and *(b)* renew the Government's declaration on the UN optional protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in relation to armed conflict. [228800]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Government made clear in their interpretive declaration when ratifying the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict that the armed forces would continue to recruit from age 16, but made a clear commitment to take all feasible measures to ensure that those who had not yet reached the age of 18 years old did not take a direct part in hostilities. The Government remain committed to meeting their obligations under the protocol and there are no plans to change the interpretive declaration.

Armed Forces: Reserve Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members and what percentage of the *(a)* Territorial Army, *(b)* Royal Navy Reserve, *(c)* Royal Marine Reserve and *(d)* Royal Auxiliary Air Force were available for deployment at the most recent date for which figures are available. [227878]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Availability for mobilisation is dependant on a number of factors, in particular which section of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 is being used to make a Call-Out Order. Therefore, while reservists may be unavailable for mobilisation under one section of the Act, they will be available under another. This effectively means that nearly all reservists remain available for mobilisation.

As at 30 September 2008 the following Volunteer Reserve personnel were available for mobilisation:

Royal Navy Reserve: 2,077

Royal Marines Reserve: 858

Territorial Army: 28,920

Royal Auxiliary Air Force: 1,599

These figures exclude those serving on full time reserve service and members of the sponsored reserve.

Armed Forces: Resignations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel opted not to extend their service in each year since 2003. [227875]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of trained UK regular forces service personnel who opted not to extend their service is recorded in tables 1-8 of TSP5 (UK Regular Forces Outflow From Trained Strength to Civil Life) as outflow type "Time Expiry". Statistics are available for each service and on a tri service basis.

TSP5 is published monthly. The current September 2008 publication includes time series back to 1998/99 and can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page==48&pubType=l&thiscontent=60&PublishTime=09:30:004www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=l&thiscontent=60&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=2008-10-14&disText=l%20Sep%202008&

Copies of TSP 5 are also available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many agencies were sponsored by his Department in (a) 2007-08 and (b) 1997-98. [228510]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The "Next Steps Report 1997" (Cm3889) provides information on all Executive Agencies as at 31 December 1997. Copies are available in the Library of the House. The most up-to-date list of Executive Agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication "The List of Ministerial Responsibilities". The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly and I will place a copy in the Library of the House.

Departmental Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which contractors his Department uses to undertake cleaning duties; and what the hourly rates of pay are for cleaners working in the Department. [223279]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 10 September 2008]*: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

This is due to the number of locations the MOD operates from across the UK and overseas. Also, for a number of sites cleaning is part of a wider building services contract and could not be split out as a separate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* computers and *(b)* hard drives in his Department contain non-encrypted data. [227438]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 October 2008]*: The MOD does not currently hold this information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Under the terms of the Burton and Hannigan reviews the MOD is conducting a census of all removable media, which will include removable hard drives and this work is due to complete in March 2009.

We have encrypted 20,000 laptops that are used outside MOD secure sites. Some laptops are not encrypted for technical reasons, such as those running automated test equipment, but are protected by other physical means. The MOD is reviewing its policy on the protection, including encryption, of equipment that is designed to be retained within our secure buildings.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228418]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The spend incurred in upgrading the Ministry of Defence's IT in each of the last three financial years varied from purchasing single computers and software licences to undertaking major IT programmes, such as the defence information infrastructure. The spend on all individual Departmental IT upgrades, and separating these upgrade costs from ongoing IT support expenditure, in each of the last three financial years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [221942]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence purchases goods and services from a large number suppliers every year and information in the format requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Lists of the organisations paid £5 million or more are published annually in UK Defence Statistics. I am arranging for copies of these lists for 2007-08 from UK Defence Statistics 2008 to be placed in the Library of the House. It is also available online at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk

(UKDS2008/chapter1.html see table 1.18 and 1.18a)

The addresses of these companies are available from Companies House:

http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 610W, on departmental sick leave, what estimate he has made of the cost of providing the requested information. [227380]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department does not have a separate category of staff on "gardening leave", as those without permanent posts are actively managed by their line management and where possible deployed on temporary work. There will be occasions when such temporary work isn't available, but that situation is continuously changing and is not recorded centrally. It would cost around £2,000 to survey all relevant management areas to estimate the level of such "gardening leave" at a point in time, and substantially more to monitor it continuously.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for increasing the supply of affordable housing for local people to rent or buy in rural areas. [227979]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Housing Corporation has been set a national target to provide 10,300 affordable homes in smaller rural communities from 2008-09 to 2010-11. Grant will be allocated to those schemes which meet the needs of local people, the regional strategy and demonstrate strong value for money from the £8.4 billion National Affordable Housing Programme.

The Prime Minister commissioned a report from the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell on how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver affordable housing in rural communities. His report, published in July, provides a comprehensive review of the issues that our rural communities face, and provides a number of practical recommendations. We are looking at the report in detail and will publish a full response later this year.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservists have been *(a)* mobilised for service and *(b)* discharged due to injury in Iraq in each year since March 2003. [227877]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of Reservists mobilised for Service in Iraq by year is as follows:

	Number
2003	8,284
2004	2,370
2005	1,198
2006	949
2007	721

Figures for 2008 are not yet available.

Information on discharges due to injuries on operations in Iraq are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate-cost as it would involve trawling individual personnel files.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters there are in the helicopter fleet of the UK armed services; how many of them are due to be taken out of service by *(a)* 2015 and *(b)* 2020; and if he will make a statement. [227036]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are 594 aircraft in the military helicopter fleet, excluding helicopters which the Ministry of Defence operates but does not own. Given that the majority of the helicopters in our current fleets have out of service dates prior to 2015, and that investment decisions are yet to be taken regarding the extension of the service life of existing airframes and the procurement of new helicopters, it is not possible to predict with any certainty the number and type of helicopters which will be in service in 2015 or 2020.

Northern Ireland Security Guard Service

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made with the review of the Northern Ireland Security Guard Service; and when he expects the review to be completed. [228886]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The review of the Northern Ireland Security Guard Service is currently under consideration in Headquarters Northern Ireland and 38 (Irish) Brigade and will be completed by the end of the year. The trade unions will be consulted on the findings and recommendations of the review.

Piracy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are plans to create a European Union-led naval task force to combat piracy. [226837]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Ministers from the Departments responsible for countering piracy have recently agreed that HMG should take a more proactive stance on dealing with this issue, recognising that this will be best achieved with international partners including NATO, the EU and coalition forces already in the Gulf of Aden.

We continue to work with our EU partners on measures to implement UNSCRs 1816 and 1838. In September we supported the establishment of an EU cell that aims to co-ordinate military escorts to World Food Programme shipping. We have also supported EU planning for a counter-piracy naval operation off the coast of Somalia, and on 14 October the EU Political and Security Committee decided to accept the offer made by the UK to provide the Operation Commander (Rear Admiral Phil Jones) and the Operation HQ (the Multinational Headquarters at Northwood).

A formal decision from the EU member states to allow planning for the operation to proceed to the next stage is expected in the next ten days. We have made it clear that the UK offer is conditional on sufficient forces being generated for the mission to be effective. Current estimates are for the operation to be launched towards the end of 2008, probably in December, once force generation and detailed planning is complete.

The key task of the operation will be to ensure the safe delivery of World Food Programme and other vital humanitarian deliveries to Somalia, but also to deter attacks on European and other shipping. EU partners are agreed that the ESDP operation is closely co-ordinated with other actors in the region, including Combined Task Force150 and NATO.

The ESDP operation will not solve the long-term problems of Somalia which are the root causes of piracy, and we will continue working with our international partners to restore governance.

RAF Menwith Hill: Security

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the Ministry of Defence Police was of the policing of the area around RAF Menwith Hill by the Armed Response Team and the Counter Terrorist Unit in each year from 2001 to 2007. [228386]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the cost of the Ministry of Defence police (MDP) deployed at RAF Menwith Hill for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227052]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Staff may use taxis where it is the most cost-effective and economical way of conducting business travel. Because of the way expense data are recorded, the Department is not able to identify expense claims for taxi travel without disproportionate cost.

WALES

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226433]

Mr. Paul Murphy: During the last year my Department has awarded a total of six non-pensionable bonuses to staff at a cost of £5,250.00.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Correspondence

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* e-mails, *(b)* telephone calls and *(c)* letters from members of the public his Department has responded to since May 2007. [227643]

Ann McKechin: Since 1 May 2007 the Scotland Office has received over 2,200 pieces of correspondence for reply. The office also deals with an average of 3,000 other pieces of correspondence each year. The office does not record separately how each piece of correspondence was received or responded to. Separate records of telephone calls are not kept.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests have been responded to by the Department since May 2007; and in how many cases *(a)* information was wholly exempted, *(b)* information was partly exempted and *(c)* the requests were answered in full. [227662]

Ann McKechin: The Ministry of Justice publish Freedom of Information statistics for all Central Government Departments on a quarterly and annual basis. The information requested can be found on the following web pages:

January-December 2007:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/7851.htm

January-June 2008:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The MoJ plan to publish the statistics for the quarter 3 monitoring period in December 2008.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* advertising and *(b)* external consultants and advisers since March 2008. [227637]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office incurred no expenditure on advertising and external consultants between 1 April and 30 September 2008.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228780]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on overnight accommodation from other forms of subsistence such as meal allowances, day subsistence, incidental expenses and motor mileage. The total expenditure on all forms of subsistence for staff in 2007-08 was £38,053.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of pension contributions incurred by his Department was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2008-09. [227661]

Ann McKechin: The pension contributions incurred by the Scotland Office in each of the last three years were:

	Cost (£)
2005-06	270,533
2006-07	287,273
2007-08	345,063

The planned expenditure for 2008-09 is £375,000.

Departmental Press Releases

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many press releases have been issued by his Department since May 2007. [227642]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office press office has a wide-ranging role within the Department which goes beyond the issuing of press releases. It is involved in planning and executing media plans on behalf of Ministers and the Office and daily contact with the media.

Since May 2007, the Department has issued 185 press releases. This figure does not include information issued orally in response to media inquiries, articles, operational and diary notes, nor does it include the Office's collaborative work with other Government Departments regarding press and media activity in Scotland.

Departmental Public Participation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings Ministers in his Department have had with members of the public since May 2007. [228117]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have frequent meetings with members of the public on a wide range of issues. Records of these meetings are not normally kept.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of his Department's staff are seconded from each other Government Departments. [227639]

Ann McKechin: At present, the Scotland Office has 30 staff on secondment from the Scottish Executive and 20 staff on secondment from the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Travel

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of travel for his Department's staff between England and Scotland *(a)* has been in 2008 and *(b)* was in each of the previous five years. [227638]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not record the information in the format requested, however, the cost of domestic travel was:

	£
2003-04	134,992
2004-05	118,160
2005-06	118,335
2006-07	119,216
2007-08	99,971

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what expenditure his Department has incurred on international travel since May 2007. [227670]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office incurred no expenditure on foreign travel during the financial year 2007-08. Figures for 2008-09 will be available at the conclusion of the financial year.

Departmental Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's expenditure on vehicles was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2008-09. [227660]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not own any vehicles.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings overseas Ministers in his Department have attended since May 2007. [228116]

Ann McKechin: Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor I have been abroad since taking up our current offices. My hon. Friend the Member for Inverclyde (David Cairns) attended a range of meetings, briefings and events in his role as Minister of State at the Scotland Office while attending the Offshore Europe conference in Stavanger, Norway, from 25 to 27 August 2008. My right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) attended a large number of overseas visits and meetings in his dual capacity as Secretary of State for Defence and Scotland.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222150]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 90-91W.

Dover House

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many times Dover House has been used to host events since May 2007; and what the cost of each such event was. [227640]

Ann McKechin: Scotland Office Ministers have hosted a total of nine events at Dover house since May 2007. The cost of each event is detailed in the following table.

The Secretary of State has also granted permission for 32 other events to be held by third parties at their own expense. The purpose of all these events is to facilitate the representation of Scottish interests in the UK Parliament and Government. I am pleased that Members of Parliament from all parties have used these opportunities to meet key stakeholders, including the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire.

Event	*Date*	*Cost (£)*
Trooping the Colour reception	16 June 2007	4,605.45
Highland Year of Culture to mark and celebrate Highland 2007, Scotland's Year of Highland Culture	4 July 2007	2,465.80
English Speaking Union, treaty of the Union Debate	20 September 2007	2,512.85
Lunch for the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland	28 November 2007	4,030.31
Roundtable on child poverty for charities, campaigners and MPs	30 January 2008	1,830.75
Equality and Human Rights roundtable	29 April 2008	2,092.33
Trooping the Colour reception	14 June 2008	6,477.86
Creative Industries (PACT) roundtable for Scotland's creative industries representatives, stakeholders, MP's and Peers	25 June 2008	140.67
Scottish Chamber of Commerce for MP, Peers and SCC representatives	9 July 2008	147.12

Republic of Ireland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings he has had with officials of the Irish Government since May 2007; and what topics were discussed at each such meeting. [227641]

Ann McKechin: Since his appointment, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland has had no such meetings. The right hon. Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) met with Irish Government officials on a number of occasions while carrying out his dual role as Secretary of State for Defence and Secretary of State for Scotland.

Scottish Parliament: Elections

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of the election to the Scottish Parliament in 2007 was. [227659]

Ann McKechin: The Scottish Parliament and local government elections in 2007 shared a wide range of facilities and services and as a consequence, were jointly funded by the Scotland Office and local authorities. All parties therefore benefited from such an arrangement. An arrangement whereby both elections were held on different days would significantly add to the aggregate costs. A final figure for the costs of the Scottish Parliament election in 2007 is not yet available as accounts from returning officers are still being assessed; the initial estimate of cost was £19 million.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Anti-Semitism: Internet

John Mann: To ask the Solicitor-General in what initiatives arising out of the 13th Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors, New Technologies and Challenges in Crime and Prosecution, relating to anti-semitic hate crime on the internet the Government are participating. [227788]

The Solicitor-General: There were no specific initiatives arising out of the 13th Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) in relation to anti-Semitic hate crime on the internet.

However, recognising that e-crime is one of the most rapidly expanding forms of criminality, during that event the Attorney-General announced the establishment of the Global Prosecutors' E-Crime Network (GPEN). This is an initiative developed by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in conjunction with the IAP which recognises the fact that prosecutors play a very significant role in combating all forms of e-crime, including hate crime on the internet, and that their knowledge and advice at an early stage of police investigations can be fundamental to success. The GPEN will comprise: a secure database for e-crime prosecution specialists from across the world; a channel for exchanging advice, queries and best practice between prosecutors; and host e-crime material including training packages and legal guidance that will constitute a virtual college for those who need access to training, and support. It will become fully operational early next year and will help keep prosecutors on top of the latest trends and developments in terms of technology, the law in other jurisdictions, and emerging forms of criminality—thereby raising standards of knowledge and improving prospects for successful prosecutions.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what administrative costs to his Department were associated with contributing to the Democratic Republic of Congo

Humanitarian Pooled Fund in 2007-08; and what funding provided by his Department to the fund was spent on in that year. [220418]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The associated cost to the Department for International Development (DFID) in contributing to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Humanitarian Pooled Fund is difficult to accurately disaggregate from the overall administrative costs of DFID in DRC. Administration costs for DFID DRC in 2007-08 are 4.4 per cent., with expenditure of just over £72 million. However, now the Pooled Fund is up and running, the costs of our oversight, monitoring and evaluation and lobbying for humanitarian reforms will be much less than 4.4 per cent. of our £30 million contribution to the pooled fund.

The DRC Humanitarian Pooled Fund (about £58 million in 2007) is managed by the United Nations (UN), with technical humanitarian expertise provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and financial management provided by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The management costs associated with the pooled fund are:

In 2008, OCHA/UNDP will require approximately £500,000 to provide the technical and managerial expertise, amounting to 0.5 per cent. of the fund.

UNDP charges 1 per cent. for the overall financial management of the fund, (about £580,000 in 2007).

UNDP also manages grants made directly to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and charges a further 5 per cent. to administer these (about £1 million in 2007).

Thus a total of about £2.08 million (about 3.5 per cent.) is spent to administer the Pooled Fund. As per standard practice, each UN agency and NGO receiving Pooled Funds can charge an overhead fee of up to 7 per cent. for each grant received.

In 2007 the Pooled Fund contributed to over 200 projects. A complete analysis of the results achieved by the fund is available in the 2007 Annual Report. The report can be downloaded on-line from:

http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/EDIS-7EGQ8V?OpenDocument

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227475]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not held any citizens' juries since 1 July 2007.

Departmental Training

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on the DFID retreats defined by Account 2103, Group 210 in his Department's Chart of Accounts in the last year for which audited figures are available. [227405]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Chart of Accounts code 2103 is held within our new accounting system, which is currently being implemented in a phased rollout, which will be completed in 2009. Information migrated from existing systems to the new system is not currently held at this level. It is not currently possible to disaggregate costs in respect of departmental retreats without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of written Questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226894]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has received 247 parliamentary questions for named day written answer in the current session. 87 per cent. were answered on the specified date.

Developing Countries: Education

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on education in emergencies since his Department announced the Education Beyond Borders initiative in April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [227290]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: When deciding how to allocate resources for emergencies, the Department for International Development (DFID) takes its lead from the UN assessments of humanitarian needs, supplemented by our own specialists.

In 2007-08 DFID spent £7,214,881 directly on education in emergencies, £2,396,302 of which was in Africa. In addition, DFID spent £37,903,673 on multi-sectoral projects around the world, of which £4,027,628 was spent on education in Africa.

The UN Central Emergency Relief Fund allocated $4,421,853 in 2007. In that year, the UK contributed 22 per cent. of the CERF budget.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the policy change announced in the Education Beyond Borders initiative in April 2007 was communicated to his Department's staff in the field. [227291]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Education Beyond Borders initiative announced in April 2007 set out the Department for International Development's (DFID) plans for delivering education to children affected by emergencies, particularly those resulting from conflict or living in fragile states. Following the announcement the details were reported to all DFID staff through DFID's internal communications system and more directly with relevant country offices to provide appropriate policy assistance for implementing plans for supporting education in fragile environments.

Disaster Relief

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria are used to assess the suitability of funding specific emergencies;

and how much is set aside for this purpose in addition to the £58 million of core funding allocated to humanitarian organisations. [224136]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) responds to humanitarian emergencies according to an assessment of objective criteria of need and the internationally accepted principles of impartiality and neutrality. For immediate rapid response DFID each year sets aside around £15 million which can then be supplemented with additional DFID funding in the event of a major disaster, such as recently for cyclone Nargis in Myanmar.

Sudan: International Assistance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the UK is giving to local civil society organisations in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan. [227647]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided $446,634 to support the activities of local civil society organisations in the Nuba Mountains through an FCO, DFID and Peace Building Fund.

In 2008 DFID has also provided around $123,000 to civil society organisations in South Kordofan through the Common Humanitarian Fund. It is not possible to disaggregate this figure for the Nuba Mountains.

DFID also contributes to the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) which, from its inception in September 2005 up to the end of 2007, has provided an estimated $26.13 million in funding for Southern Kordofan. It is not possible to disaggregate this figure for the Nuba Mountains, or what support was given to civil society organisations.

WORK AND PENSIONS

National Insurance Contributions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* women aged between 16 and 60 years and *(b)* men aged between 16 and 64 years in the United Kingdom have never paid national insurance contributions as a consequence of paid employment; and how many of these are classed as able to work. [226152]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Occupational Pensions: Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans next to review the limit set on the sum received by an individual from an occupational pension which may be taken into account in the calculation of that person's incapacity benefit entitlement. [226769]

Jonathan Shaw: A holding reply was sent on 14 October 2008.

The amount of pension income that can be disregarded is reviewed as part of the annual benefit uprating exercise. The disregard is already more generous than that used in similar provisions in other benefits like jobseeker's allowance, but we will continue to keep the position under review.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade: Colombia

John Bercow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was received by UK companies for arms sales to Colombia in each of the last five years. [228225]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not hold information on how much has been received by UK companies for arms sales.

The Government do however publish information on the export licence applications it processes each year by destination. This includes the monetary value of items for which licences have been granted, and a summary of the items covered by these licences.

This information is available in the Government's annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. The annual reports for the last five years are available from the Libraries of the House and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/aboutthefco/publications/publications/annualreports/exportcontrols1

The quarterly reports are available on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/statistics/index.html

Banks: Interest Rates

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the statement by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry during the Second Reading of the Consumer Credit Bill of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1405-06, what recent reviews his Department has undertaken of the need for caps on interest rates in the sub-prime lending market. [226532]

Mr. Thomas: In line with the commitments made during the passage of the Consumer Credit Act 2006, the Government will review their policy on interest rate caps after the Act has been in force for three years with regard to all available evidence. The Department has not undertaken any specific reviews of the need for caps on interest rates since 2004, but my officials are keeping abreast of all academic research into this area and are currently in discussions with researchers who are examining the impact of similar reforms in Japan.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the contribution of the public sector-led broadband initiative NYnet to the economic competitiveness of North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [226669]

Ian Pearson: BERR has not made an assessment of the contribution of NYnet to the economic competitiveness of North Yorkshire, but Regeneris Consulting and Adroit Economics were commissioned by Yorkshire Forward to carry out an evaluation of Yorkshire Forward's contribution to the North Yorkshire broadband programme, which included a look at future impacts of NYnet, as it was too early to make judgment on actual impact. The report is not yet publicly available.

Business: Regulation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria and performance measures his Department uses to assess the performance of industry regulators. [224778]

Ian Pearson: Regulatory agencies in the UK cover a wide-range of sectors and activities. There are currently some 40 national regulatory bodies, 10 economic regulators and some 468 local authorities, all of which regulate industry in some way.

There are a wide range of performance measures used in respect of their work: these will commonly feature in the relevant annual reports and (in the case of local authorities) in a range of nationally-set performance indicators led by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Economic regulators report directly to Parliament.

The Better Regulation Executive in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has worked with the National Audit Office to develop a process of external review of regulatory performance against the principles of the 2005 Hampton Report (HM Treasury 2005). These are known as 'Hampton Implementation Reviews' and are being conducted on all 40 national regulatory bodies.

The purpose of these reviews is to assess how well national regulators are following the Hampton principles which are in essence the criteria. The reviews encourage best practice and continuous improvement among regulators. They do not include quantitative performance measures.

Citizens' Advice Bureaux: Closures

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has had discussions with representatives of citizens' advice bureaux to discuss potential closures of citizens' advice bureaux; and if he will make a statement. [227964]

Mr. Thomas: I have not had any discussions with representatives from Citizens Advice, the organisation which provides the umbrella body to support the Citizens Advice Service, nor from individual Citizens Advice Bureaux on potential closures of bureaux. While Central Government provide funding to Citizens Advice, it does not fund individual bureaux, which receive their core funding mainly from their local authority. They will be best placed to decide which advice agencies should be supported locally.

Departmental Telephone Services

Colin Challen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what agencies or units for which his Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225747]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* From the central records available the Department has no public telephone contact numbers which charge more than the standard BT national call rate. The Department does not receive any income from its contact numbers.

I have asked the Chief Executives of the Department's agencies to respond direct to my hon. Friend.

Imports: Catering

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to seek to secure the reduction of US import tariffs on catering products; and if he will make a statement. [226150]

Mr. Thomas: Reduction in global tariffs, including those applied by the US on imports of catering products, are being negotiated through the multilateral Doha Development Agenda trade talks. If an agreement is concluded on the basis of current proposals US tariffs on catering goods will fall to below 8 per cent.

Insurance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has issued guidance on best practice for insurance renewal offers. [225145]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* The Financial Services Authority is responsible for regulating insurance companies headquartered in the UK. In addition to the high level principle that all insurance firms should treat their customers fairly, the FSA have issued two specific rules that apply to renewals.

Insurance Conduct of Business Sourcebook (ICOBS) 6.1.5R states that a firm must provide appropriate information in good time to allow the customer to make an informed decision about the arrangements proposed.

'Good time' is determined by ICOBS 6.1.8G: 'in determining what is in good time', a firm should consider the importance of the information to the customer's decision-making process and the point at which the information may be most useful.

Mobile Phones: Fees and Charges

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to encourage mobile network operators to reduce their text and data roaming charges for customers travelling abroad. [222614]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 6 October 2008]*: The communications sector is subject to regulation under the Communications Act 2003 which implements the overarching European legislation in this area. That European legislation was amended in 2007 by a regulation to address the problem of the high cost of voice roaming while abroad. The regulation acknowledged that the costs of SMS and data roaming would need to be reviewed with a view to further regulation if the relevant charges did not decline through market forces.

In the light of their review of that regulation, the Commission has proposed an amending regulation to extend the present regulation of voice calls, establish a ceiling for the costs of text messages sent while abroad, and a ceiling on the wholesale charges that apply to data roaming (this largely relates to mobile internet access through laptops and phones). While the detail of the regulation has still to be negotiated, the proposal offers the prospect of real gains to UK consumers over and above the competitive packages already on offer in the UK, and the UK Government will be working with European partners to achieve that result.

New Business Ambassadors Group

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what budget has been set aside to secure the work and operation of the New Business Ambassadors Group; from which departmental budget these resources will be drawn; and whether the ambassadors will receive any payment for their services. [225955]

Mr. Thomas: In financial year 2008-09 up to £100,000 has been internally reallocated from within UK Trade and investment (UKTI) resources to support this work overseas. Funding was found from in-year recyclable efficiencies. Within UKTI work has been reorganised internally and redistributed to establish a secretariat to support the business ambassadors.

The business ambassadors will receive no payment for their services, however, reasonable expenses will be allowed. The business ambassadors may make up to one dedicated trip a year to support the Government in promoting the UK around the world, but it is anticipated that the majority of their work as business ambassadors will take place within their own travel schedules, in order to obtain the maximum public benefit.

Overseas Investment: Colombia

John Bercow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many UK-based companies have investments in Colombia. [228209]

Mr. Thomas: There are currently 53 UK companies with investments in Colombia according to records held by the British embassy in Bogotá.

Overseas Trade: Somalia

John Bercow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the volume of trade between the UK and Somalia was in each of the last five years. [228208]

Mr. Thomas: Data on recorded trade in goods with Somalia are shown in the following table.

£ million

	UK export of goods to Somalia	*UK import of goods from Somalia*
2003	3.6	0.1
2004	7.1	0.0
2005	1.9	0.1
2006	0.8	0.1
2007	0.9	0.2

Source:
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics.

Estimates of trade in services are not available for the full five years. ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2007 were as follows:

£ million

	UK export of services to Somalia	*UK import of services from Somalia*
2005	1	1
2006	1	1

Overseas Trade: Sudan

John Bercow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the volume of UK-Sudan trade was in each of the last five years. [228207]

Mr. Thomas: Data on recorded trade in goods with Sudan are shown in the following table.

£ million

	UK export of goods to Sudan	*UK import of goods from Sudan*
2003	88.8	6.3
2004	91.6	14.2
2005	139.7	18.1
2006	155.1	10.0
2007	114.9	20.5

Source:
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics.

Estimates of trade in services are not available for the full five years. ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2007 were as follows:

£ million

	UK export of services to Sudan	*UK import of services from Sudan*
2005	29	21
2006	31	22

Trade: Jurisdiction

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from UK business trade and industry representatives on US extraterritorial jurisdiction and intervention; and if he will make a statement. [225944]

Mr. Thomas: The Department periodically receives representations from businesses, business representatives and individuals usually, but not exclusively, in respect of US trade sanctions against Cuba.

The Government are opposed to excessive assertions of extraterritorial legislation and jurisdiction and frequently makes their views known in contacts with the US.

We have made our opposition to US policy clear through our vote every year against the US embargo on Cuba at the United Nations General Assembly, most recently on 30 October 2007, and UK officials raised the issue again with US officials in Washington in May. The UK and the US agree that though they share the same policy aim, peaceful transition to pluralist democracy, they differ on how to achieve that aim. The US favours isolation of Cuba, while the EU prefers constructive engagement and dialogue.

UK Trade and Investment: Arts

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps UK Trade and Investment has taken to enhance the international competitive position of the UK's creative industries. [227181]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) mission is to deliver maximum value for the UK economy and for business in an increasingly globalised and competitive world. Our latest performance results show that 54 per cent. of all businesses—some 10,000 companies—assisted through UKTI trade services over an annual period improved their business performance as a direct result of UKTI support.

UKTI, with the Creative Industries Marketing Strategy Board chaired by Sir John Sorrell, is leading an international marketing strategy aimed at raising the profile of the sector overseas and helping UK creative companies maximise international opportunities. The marketing strategy has concentrated on developing new messaging, focusing UK promotional efforts and developing a new set of initiatives to market the UK's creative industries more effectively overseas.

UKTI engages with the creative industries through a number of export advisory groups to ensure that the creative companies benefit from the full range of UK Trade and Investment services such as Passport to Export, the Trade Access Programme, sector missions and seminars.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will publish UK Trade and Investment's five-year strategy to enhance the international competitive position in the UK's creative industries. [227215]

Mr. Thomas: "Creative UK: Towards an International Marketing Strategy for the UK's Creative Industries" was published on 16 July 2007. A copy rests in the House of Commons Library.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Central African Republic: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of cross-border violence between the Central African Republic and Darfur; and what estimate he has made of the number of people who have been internally displaced as a result of the violence. [226086]

Gillian Merron: We rely on United Nations' agencies to provide us with information on cross-border violence between the Central African Republic (CAR) and Darfur. They advise that bandit and poacher groups routinely carry out cross-border raids. They have reports of one cross-border attack on the town of Am Dafok in the CAR at the end of September by a group that retreated to a base in Sudan.

We cannot assess the number of those displaced because of such cross-border violence. However, the number of people internally displaced in CAR has fallen this year, and now stands at 108,000. The number displaced has also fallen in the Vakaga prefecture, which borders southern Darfur. According to the UN, security in the region has improved in recent months, partially as a result of the deployment of EUFOR, the EU Force in eastern Chad and north-eastern CAR.

China: Human Rights

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the human rights situation in China following the conclusion of the Olympic Games; and if he will make a statement. [225063]

Bill Rammell: We remain concerned about the human rights situation in China and continue to devote considerable attention to encouraging respect for international standards. In certain areas, China's hosting of the Olympics has led to improvements. For example, we welcomed the media regulations put in place for foreign journalists prior to the games and are encouraged by indications that China will maintain a more flexible reporting regime for foreign media. We also welcome the higher profile given to the rights of disabled persons following the Paralympics and China's ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Disabled People earlier this year.

None the less, we were disappointed that greater improvements in human rights did not take place in the run-up to the Olympic Games, and are concerned that in certain areas reports of human rights violations have increased. We remain particularly concerned about the situation in Tibet, which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has raised recently with Premier Wen and President Hu, and continue to urge transparency and substantive dialogue as the way to address the underlying human rights issues. We were also disappointed that the areas designated for authorised protests set up during the Olympic Games were not utilised.

We continue to believe that the extension of personal freedoms would be in China's own interest, and we will continue to encourage China to meet its commitments to international human rights standards, including through ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Human rights will continue to be an area of major focus in our engagement with China in the years ahead.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the arrest of Bishop Jia Zhiguo of Zhengding on 24 August 2008 by the Chinese authorities; what assessment he has made of the Bishop's health and the conditions in which he is held; what representations he has made to his Chinese counterparts; and if he will make a statement. [225064]

Bill Rammell: We remain concerned about the wellbeing of Jia Zhiguo, following reports of his recent detention on 24 August. We have previously raised our concerns on Bishop Jia's situation with the Chinese Government: we included his name on a list of individual cases of concern raised with the Chinese during the 16th round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue held in Beijing on 28 January 2008. We continue to monitor his case.

We continue to be concerned that restrictions on religious groups and the harassment of practitioners undermines freedom of religious belief in China. We have repeatedly made clear that such actions are not in line with article 18 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which we continue to urge the Chinese to ratify. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this issue with the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi when he visited China on 25-29 February.

Chinese People's Liberation Army: Royal Military Academy

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he was first informed that members of the Chinese People's Liberation Army were attending RMA Sandhurst. [225409]

Bill Rammell: The decision to allow a member of the Chinese People's Liberation Army to attend training at Sandhurst was in line with our overall strategy of engagement with China which has been agreed across Government, including by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary therefore would not expect to be consulted on individual issues such as this and indeed was not consulted in this case.

Colombia: Arms Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the trade in small arms with Colombia. [228170]

Gillian Merron: All export licence applications, including those for small arms to Colombia, are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking account of the circumstances prevailing at the time and other relevant announced Government policies.

An export licence will not be issued if the arguments for doing so are outweighed by the need to comply with the UK's international obligations and commitments, by concern that the goods might be used for internal repression or international aggression, by the risks to regional stability or by other considerations as described in the EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

Colombia: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Colombia on the incidence of human rights abuses in that country. [228202]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the human rights situation in Colombia with Jaime Bermudez, the Colombian Foreign Minister, on 9 October 2008. Following that meeting, the Foreign Secretary issued the following statement:

> "Colombia and the UK are partners of long standing, working to an agenda of tackling the drugs trade, promoting human rights, encouraging trade and investment and working to protect those whose rights have been abused. It is vitally important that the United Kingdom works with the government of Colombia to reduce the flow of cocaine to Europe and the UK, which does so much harm to all the countries and communities involved.
>
> We want to help the Colombian government improve the difficult human rights situation in Colombia, and to promote stability, prosperity, democracy and the rule of law. Those guilty of abuses—whoever they are—must receive justice for their actions. Colombia's people—particularly those most vulnerable: indigenous communities, the displaced, human rights defenders and trade unionists—deserve the full protection of the law, and the support of both the Colombian government and its international partners."

I also raised human rights issues when I spoke to the Colombian Foreign Minister on 16 October.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Colombia on the treatment of trade unionists. [227645]

Gillian Merron: We regularly raise the dangers faced by trade unionists with the Colombian Government. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the issue with the Colombian Foreign Minister when they met in London on 9 October, commenting publicly after the meeting:

> "Colombia's people—particularly those most vulnerable: indigenous communities, the displaced, human rights defenders and trade unionists—deserve the full protection of the law, and the support of both the Colombian Government and its international partners."

We are matching this advocacy with practical support. We invited a delegation of Colombian trade unionists to the UK in March 2008. Following that visit, we sent a tripartite delegation from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS), the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) to Colombia in late September 2008, to explore how the UK can support and promote labour relations in Colombia. We await their report and recommendations.

Commonwealth Committee on Terrorism

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Commonwealth Committee on Terrorism next plans to meet; and if he will make a statement. [226084]

Bill Rammell: Commonwealth Foreign Ministers agreed on 24 September 2008 that counter-terrorism officials should meet before the end of 2008. The exact timing and format of the meeting are yet to be agreed.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK has made in relation to the arrest and detention in the Democratic Republic of Congo of Gabriel Mokia, head of the Movement for Democratic Change political party. [224541]

Gillian Merron: UK officials and other international observers in Kinshasa are following Gabriel Mokia's case. Mr. Mokia has had access to legal representation, and officials from the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo have attended all sessions of the proceedings against him. It is not yet clear what charges, if any, he will face. While we have not yet made any specific representations in this case, we will continue to monitor its progress, share information with partners, and make such representations, as appropriate.

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK has made in relation to concerns raised by international observers at the conviction in the Democratic Republic of Congo of Freddy Bisimwa Matabaro and Mugisho Rwezangabo for the murder of the journalist Serge Maheshe and their requests for a renewed and effective investigation into his death. [224542]

Gillian Merron: The UK has worked closely with international partners in following the trial of the men accused of the murder of Serge Maheshe. We and EU partners believe that effective pursuit of this case by the Democratic Republic of Congo authorities will send an important signal that impunity is no longer tolerated.

The EU made representations to the Minister for Justice and Human Rights on 12 May 2008 after four defendants were convicted, and issued a further statement on 15 May, highlighting the EU's concern at irregularities in the appeal process and calling for fairness in the proceedings.

The convictions of Freddy Bisimwa Matabaro and Mugisho Rwenzagabo for the murder of Serge Maheshe were upheld on appeal on 21 May. Officials from the UN's mission in DRC are in contact with the authorities over this verdict. The defendants' lawyers are in the process of exploring options for a final appeal.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's rest and recuperation leave policy for civilians working in operational theatres. [226984]

Gillian Merron: This policy is not set out in a single document or booklet.

We take very seriously the health and welfare of our staff and recognise the special pressures that deployment to an 'operational theatre' can bring. All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff serving in Afghanistan and Iraq undergo a range of health checks, both physical and psychological, before, during and after their deployments. We review this process regularly to ensure that it complies with clinical best practice. We also have our own medical teams in Iraq and Afghanistan to provide primary medical care and pastoral support to staff.

In addition we require staff to take regular decompression breaks (of 10 to 14 days) outside of the operational theatre after every six to seven weeks in Afghanistan or Iraq. At the end of each tour of duty (6 to 12 months in Iraq and Helmand; 12 to 18 months in Kabul) we encourage staff to take an extended break, using leave accumulated before and during their posting, before they move to another job.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226489]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not differentiate its suppliers by size, so we are not able to provide the information requested.

Of the invoices received, for goods and services procured from all suppliers in 2007-08, 93.1 per cent. were paid by the FCO and its agency FCO services and 98.3 per cent. were settled by Wilton Park, another agency of the FCO, within 30 days of receipt.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if he will make a statement. [216117]

Gillian Merron: The number of UK civil servants employed by the FCO and by Wilton Park, an Executive Agency of the FCO, where stress or mental health illness has been given as the reason for the absence is set out in the following table.

	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	*Wilton Park*
2005-2006		
Number of Staff	137	6
Percentage of Workforce	2.3	8.1
2006-07		
Number of Staff	128	10
Percentage of Workforce	2.1	13.5
2007-08		
Number of Staff	119	10
Percentage of Workforce	2.0	13.5

The following table provides the average period of sick leave in each year for stress and mental health disorders.

	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (days)	*Wilton Park (days)*
2005-06	18.2	12.3
2006-07	18.6	29.6
2007-08	26.4	62.5

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pays staff on sick leave their normal salary for up to a maximum of six months sick absence during any rolling period of 12 months. After that the FCO pays 50 per cent. of salary for up to a maximum of six months during any rolling period of four years or less. If the absence continues beyond this period, staff cease to receive any salary. It would incur a disproportionate amount of cost for us to investigate each individual instance of sickness to tell whether the officers had reached any of these thresholds.

The FCO does not hold records of staff sickness absence before 2005. Nor does it have access to the sickness absence records of non-departmental public bodies. Sickness absence figures for FCO Services, which became a Trading Fund on 1 April 2008, are included in the FCO total.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to protecting the health, welfare and productivity of its staff. Our occupational stress policy provides guidance for staff and managers on recognising and dealing with stress and on reducing the causes of stress in the workplace. We provide further support through a team of welfare officers, referral to our Occupational Health service and access to a 24/7 confidential employee assistance programme.

Embassies: Non-domestic Rates

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what sanctions may be imposed on diplomatic missions in the UK which do not pay non-domestic rates for which they are liable. [225556]

Gillian Merron: We expect all diplomatic missions to meet their national non-domestic rate obligations, and the vast majority do so. The Valuation Office Agency of HM Revenue and Customs sends monthly-statements to all diplomatic missions which have outstanding debts. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has an annual process of formally raising outstanding debts with missions, and urging prompt settlement. Failure to do so leads to the missions appearing on the written ministerial statement which my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary makes to Parliament each year.

The total amount of national non-domestic rates owed by foreign Missions in the UK fell by more than 50 per cent. between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Georgia: South Ossetia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of *(a)* civilians in South Ossetia killed as a result of Georgian actions and *(b)* Georgian citizens killed as a result of Russian actions in the recent conflict; and if he will make a statement. [223179]

Caroline Flint: Human Rights Watch have estimated fewer than 100 (Ossetian) civilians were killed in South Ossetia as a result of Georgia's actions. The Investigative Committee under the Russian General Prosecutors Office, whose investigation is still under way, have reported that they have so far been able to identify 137 victims.

On 15 September the Georgian Ministry of Defence released official figures for the number of Georgians killed as a result of the conflict. They reported a total of 370 deaths, consisting of 188 civilians, 168 military personnel and 14 Ministry of Internal Affairs personnel.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 872W, on Iran: sanctions, on how many occasions UK authorities have undertaken inspection of cargoes to and from Iran in accordance with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1803 since March 2008. [225627]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

UK authorities undertake daily inspections of cargoes to and from Iran on the basis of risk and intelligence. UK authorities have undertaken no inspections in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1803 since March 2008. Inspections in the UK are triggered at a lower level of confidence than the wording of the resolution which calls upon states to undertake inspections only where there are 'reasonable grounds to believe'.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions Ministers have made representations to other governments on the recognition of Kosovo. [222823]

Caroline Flint: We have been engaging actively both in bilateral discussions and multilateral forums, working closely with and alongside the government of Kosovo, and with like-minded international partners to encourage further recognitions.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in transferring equipment and resources from UNMIK to EULEX in Kosovo. [222824]

Caroline Flint: On 18 August, a technical agreement was signed between the UN and EU, paving the way for the transfer of equipment and resources from the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). The transfer is now in progress.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the transition from UNMIK to EULEX in Kosovo to take place; and if he will make a statement. [222826]

Caroline Flint: The transition from the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) is currently in progress. Although some technical issues are still to be resolved, the European Council expects EULEX to become fully operational by late November 2008.

Palestinians: Oppression

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on whether students from Birzeit University in Palestine are being imprisoned as a result of their political beliefs; and if he will make a statement. [226383]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of reports of students from Birzeit university being detained earlier this year and have raised our concerns with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We continue to follow Israeli detention operations closely and monitor the situation with regard to all Palestinian prisoners. We believe all Palestinian prisoners should have access to a fair trial, and call upon Israel to ensure that any actions they take are in accordance with international law.

The Israeli Prison Service (IPS) has stressed its commitment to honouring its international obligations with regard to the humane and dignified treatment of prisoners.

Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in establishing an EU-led multi-national naval mission to deal with incidents of piracy around the Gulf of Aden; and when he last discussed the matter with his EU counterparts. [226071]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence, met other EU Defence Ministers on 2 October to discuss incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Aden. A further meeting will take place in mid-November.

Rendition

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in the identification of possible incidents of rendition flights via UK airports since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [225923]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary informed Parliament in a written ministerial statement on 3 July that the US Government have confirmed that, with the exception of two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002 about which he informed Parliament in an oral statement on 21 February, there have been no other instances in which US intelligence flights landed in the United Kingdom, our Overseas Territories, or the Crown Dependencies, with a detainee on board since 11 September 2001. US Secretary of State Rice has also underlined the firm US understanding that there will be no rendition through the UK, our Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies or airspace without first receiving our express permission.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the implementation of a no-fly zone over Sudan on the prospects for peace and security in the region; and if he will make a statement. [226945]

Gillian Merron: We are not currently proposing a no-fly zone for Darfur. We assess that a no-fly zone would restrict essential humanitarian operations and be a major logistical challenge due to the size of Darfur and the lack of available air assets. The United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is mandated to monitor military activity, including flights prohibited by UN Security Council Resolution 1591. We continue to press all parties for the rapid and full deployment of UNAMID.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227053]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff claimed £34,938 in expenses for UK taxi travel during the financial year 2006-07. Staff of FCO Services, which was then an Executive agency and is now a Trading Fund, claimed £8,638 in the same period.

We do not hold central records of taxi claims for earlier years. To provide this information would incur a disproportionate cost.

USA: Bank Services

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 130W, on the USA: bank services, what progress has been made on establishing guiding principles for intervention in extraterritoriality cases since July 2008. [225943]

Bill Rammell: While discussions on guiding principles are still ongoing, we continue to oppose the excessive use of extra-territorial legislation. There has been continued regular contact with UK companies about the applications of US extraterritoriality, and we continue to raise the issue with US interlocutors of the excessive extraterritorial reach of US jurisdiction as appropriate.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the issue of human rights abuses in Western Sahara is raised during the ongoing negotiations to grant Morocco advanced status with the European Union. [225112]

Bill Rammell: The UK welcomes closer co-operation between the EU and Morocco, including the proposal for an Advanced Status Agreement currently under discussion between EU member states, the Commission and Morocco. The issue of Western Sahara, while not discussed within the context of the advanced status, remains part of the political dialogue between the EU and Morocco. We expect that both Western Sahara and human rights will be discussed as part of the political dialogue at the next EU-Morocco Association Council on 13 October.

The UK continues to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. To this end and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1813 of 30 April, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his staff, and the negotiation process currently under way. We hope a further round of talks will take place later this year.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer questions *(a)* (i) 223176, (ii) 223177, (iii) 223178, (iv) 223179 and (v) 223180 tabled on 3 September and *(b)* (A) 224249 and (B) 224248 tabled on 10 September by the hon. Member for Portsmouth South. [226371]

Gillian Merron: Written parliamentary questions 223176, 223177, 223178, 223179, 223180, 224249 and 224248 were delayed due to administrative error.

PQ 233177 was answered on 15 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1262W, PQ223180 was answered on 8 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 634W and PQ 224249 was answered on 13 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 969W.

Answers for the remaining parliamentary questions will be issued very shortly.

I apologise for the delay.

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many outstanding warrants have been issued for category *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C offences to individuals whom the police cannot trace in each police authority in each of the last three years. [228969]

Maria Eagle: All failure to appear (FTA) warrants count as outstanding from the moment they are received from the courts until the time they are either executed or withdrawn. The following table sets out the number of outstanding FTA warrants as at 31 March for each of the last three financial years. This information is published on CJSonline.

Areas have only been required to provide a breakdown of this figure by category A, B and C since the 2007-08 financial year, therefore this information is available for 31 March 2008 only. These data have previously only been made available to practitioners and have not been validated in the same way as the data published on CJSonline.

It is not possible to tell from centrally collected data how long each of these warrants has been outstanding. However police forces keep outstanding FTA warrants under regular review to ensure that all possible steps are taken to execute these warrants as quickly as possible.

	FTA warrants outstanding			*Number of FTA warrants outstanding by category as at 31 March 2008*		
CJS areas	*31 March 2006*	*31 March 2007*	*31 March 2008*	*A*	*B*	*C*
Avon and Somerset	1,347	1,161	918	134	294	490
Bedfordshire	496	508	319	40	128	151
Cambridgeshire	548	438	388	88	147	153
Cheshire	305	311	257	13	179	65
Cleveland	267	225	195	40	95	60
Cumbria	109	105	117	23	68	26
Derbyshire	270	300	257	101	106	50
Devon and Cornwall	430	303	257	70	136	51
Dorset	510	416	318	91	155	72
County Durham and Darlington	159	149	120	4	80	36
Dyfed-Powys	177	143	127	10	59	58
Essex	915	995	799	84	384	331
Gloucestershire	245	200	166	26	97	43
Greater Manchester	3,671	2,475	1,835	170	608	1,057
Gwent	282	243	181	28	60	93
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	926	788	641	69	412	160
Hertfordshire	427	364	343	41	196	106
Humberside	312	244	214	19	75	120
Kent	759	675	557	79	279	199
Lancashire	988	896	749	72	335	342
Leicestershire	886	659	513	93	207	213
Lincolnshire	783	718	552	126	136	290
London	9,779	7,278	6,040	1,149	3,650	1,241
Merseyside	1,730	1,109	784	222	316	246
Norfolk	387	425	275	16	101	158

CJS areas	*FTA warrants outstanding*			*Number of FTA warrants outstanding by category as at 31 March 2008*		
	31 March 2006	*31 March 2007*	*31 March 2008*	*A*	*B*	*C*
North Wales	213	143	128	28	83	17
North Yorkshire	213	147	129	38	39	52
Northamptonshire	266	258	244	19	192	33
Northumbria	740	685	576	56	270	250
Nottinghamshire	624	598	510	120	253	137
South Wales	911	1,018	890	91	303	496
South Yorkshire	691	432	330	n/a	n/a	n/a
Staffordshire	552	489	327	40	240	47
Suffolk	527	424	373	48	140	142
Surrey	260	250	223	33	158	32
Sussex	734	639	556	106	351	99
Thames Valley	1,811	1,462	1,204	126	646	432
Warwickshire	154	147	159	38	81	40
West Mercia	577	546	354	39	214	101
West Midlands	1,828	1,545	1,091	202	507	382
West Yorkshire	992	802	886	225	357	304
Wiltshire	138	166	137	2	117	18

Driving Offences

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cars have been confiscated from uninsured drivers in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* each region of England in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) 2008. [227072]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally.

First-tier Tribunal

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the new practice directions for the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal will be published. [227567]

Bridget Prentice: The final drafts of the Practice Directions to be made by the Senior President of Tribunals for the jurisdictions within the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal was sent to the Lord Chancellor for his approval by 17 October 2008. Subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval they will then be published on the Tribunal Procedure Committee's website.

Foston Hall Prison and Young Offender Institution

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are taken to maintain the support offered to young women within the Toscana Unit at HM Prison and Young Offender Institution Foston Hall after transfer to another institution or release; and if he will make a statement on the report of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons on the work of the unit. [227744]

Mr. Hanson: The report is very positive, referring to a stable and supportive environment. Like other juvenile secure facilities, the Toscana Unit is working with youth offending teams to ensure as much continuity as possible in the support provided to the young people throughout their sentence. That aim is underpinned by the National Standards for Youth Justice Services 2004 and by best practice guidance in the new allocations operations manual for young people which is about to be issued.

Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he is making in his consideration of the extension of the applicability of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to include private companies delivering public services, with specific reference to the transport sector. [228004]

Mr. Straw: The Government are continuing to assess the issues relating to designating additional public authorities under the Act; this includes bodies in the transport sector. We will publish our response in due course.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners convicted of knife or gun-related offences served their full sentence in each of the last 10 years, broken down by type of crime. [227286]

Mr. Straw: It is not possible to identify those crimes in which a gun or a knife was used as these will be charged according to the generic offence, for example, murder, manslaughter, wounding, etc. The only statistics available are those for specific weapons related offences, which are largely for possession. The following table shows the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody for indictable offences relating to weapons.

All offenders sentenced to custody serve their full sentence as prescribed by law. A custodial sentence comprises two parts. The first part is spent in custody and the second part is served on licence in the community. In addition, some offenders subject to determinate sentences may benefit from the home detention curfew (HDC), early removal scheme (ERS) or end of custody licence (ECL) scheme, which provide for release earlier than the statutory release date of the sentence under certain circumstances. Certain violent offenders are presumed unsuitable for HDC unless there are exceptional circumstances and are ineligible for ECL. In addition, certain categories of prisoner are currently excluded from ERS, for example, extended sentence prisoners and those subject to sex offender registration. None of these schemes apply to prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence. These sentences do not have a statutory release date and release is determined by the Parole Board.

Persons sentenced[1] to immediate custody for offences relating to weapons

Offence class		*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Wounding etc.	Possession of firearms etc., with intent to endanger life	122	133	123	66	43	46	46	36	31	31	37
	Using etc. firearms or imitation firearms with intent to resist arrest etc.	11	8	7	9	5	5	3	8	6	9	6
Other wounding, etc	Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	401	509	585	554	595	634	787	760	817	829	788
	Possessing firearm or imitation firearm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence	12	13	28	23	36	38	46	50	36	39	52
	Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit indictable offence	48	34	46	49	61	66	59	44	60	30	36
	Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm, with intent to cause fear of violence	68	60	67	135	142	195	209	253	252	256	211
	Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	56	372	550	534	499	589	766	755	803	965	1,065
	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	—	3	—	2	7	3	7	6	12	5	13
	Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises	1	4	5	3	6	3	5	4	4	3	3
Firearms Act	Possessing etc. firearms or ammunition without firearm certificate	180	167	110	85	55	61	55	97	92	63	74
	Trading in firearms without being registered as a firearms dealer	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
	Selling firearm to person without a certificate	1	4	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	—
	Repairing, testing etc. firearm for person without a certificate	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	Shortening a shotgun or other smooth bore gun	10	9	4	4	—	—	4	—	—	1	—
	Conversion of firearms	2	2	—	1	—	1	2	7	5	—	1
	Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition	108	107	171	138	143	131	176	216	252	242	212
	Carrying loaded firearm in public place	31	31	32	17	20	17	31	37	33	29	23
	Trespassing with firearm or imitation firearm in a building	1	—	—	2	—	4	—	—	2	1	2
	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime	40	45	48	53	55	32	38	38	55	57	46

Persons sentenced[1] to immediate custody for offences relating to weapons

Offence class		*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	Failure to notify Police of deactivation, destruction or loss of firearms or ammunition	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons designed for discharge of noxious liquid etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	75	88
	Possessing or distributing firearms disguised as other objects	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	Possessing or distributing other prohibited weapons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2
Knives Act	Unlawful marketing or selling of knives	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
	Publication of any material likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour involving use of the knife as a weapon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
All	All offences	1,092	1,503	1,779	1,676	1,669	1,826	2,235	2,312	2,492	2,641	2,662

[1] Principal offence

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released in 2007 had served less than half of their custodial sentence. [228163]

Maria Eagle: No data are yet available on discharges from prison in 2007. The latest available data are for 2006. In 2006, 78,500 prisoners were released from prison of whom 13,666 were released earlier than the halfway point of their sentence under the Home Detention Curfew scheme. A number of foreign national prisoners subject to deportation would also have been removed early under the early removal scheme but figures on this for 2006 are not available. All other prisoners were discharged on or after the half way point of the sentence depending on the statutory release arrangements that applied to them.

Prisoners: Education

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners gained *(a)* GCSEs, *(b)* A-levels, *(c)* NVQs and *(d)* other qualifications while in custody in each of the last five years. [228962]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the then Minister of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Bill Rammell) to my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 595-98W, for a detailed breakdown of qualifications achieved by prisoners over the age of 18. Information on qualifications achieved by prisoners under the age of 18, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes) on 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 362W, to the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate (Mr. Burrowes).

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information and guidance is available to users of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal whose cases will be taken forward under the new system after 3 November 2008. [227573]

Bridget Prentice: The Special Educational Needs Appeal booklet and the Disability Discrimination Act claim booklet are currently being revised; both will be available before 3 November. Guidance is also being drafted for the case management hearings and will be sent out when a case is acknowledged.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal on users who have an autism spectrum disorder. [227575]

Bridget Prentice: This group of service users need extra and expert support under the current regulations for the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal. Panels who deal with these service users deploy specialist experience and great skill in facilitating their presentation and participation to achieve balance, fairness and appropriate outcomes for the child who is the subject of the appeal. The judiciary with input from the Special User Group, which has included the National Autistic Society, have taken the needs of this user group into account in the development of the forms and processes resulting from the new Health, Education and Social Care Rules, and the accompanying Practice Directions.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information is available to advocacy groups and other groups providing support to families using the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal about the changes to the Tribunal taking place after 3 November 2008. [227577]

Bridget Prentice: Current guidance on how to appeal or make a claim, the Special Educational Needs Appeal booklet and the Disability Discrimination Act claim booklet, are both being revised. They will be available before 3 November. Guidance will be drafted for the case management hearings. In addition we are undertaking comprehensive training in November of all users.

Warrants: Council Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* liability orders and *(b)* warrants of commitment were issued in respect of council tax arrears in each region of England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [228121]

Bridget Prentice: Information on the number of liability orders is not held centrally on Ministry of Justice systems. It could be provided by contacting each magistrates court and manually collating only at a disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of people who were received in England and Wales prison establishments having been committed for non-payment of council tax (or community charge) in each year from 1997 to 2006. This is the most recent 10-year period for which published statistics are available. It is not possible to break down these figures by region.

	Number of prison receptions
1997	357
1998	194
1999	101
2000	41
2001	29
2002	21
2003	30
2004	28
2005	21
2006	45

Source:
Ministry of Justice report "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006", table 7.10

It is likely that the numbers of warrants of commitment issued in respect of council tax arrears are higher than the numbers of people received in prison, as shown in this table. This is because it is possible for an individual to avoid being conveyed to prison by repaying arrears promptly and in full once a warrant of commitment is issued in their name.

Whitemoor Prison: Homicide

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many attempted murders have taken place at HMP Whitemoor in each of the last three years. [227776]

Mr. Hanson: In the last three years no prisoner at Whitemoor has been charged by the police with the criminal offence of attempted murder.

Whitemoor Prison: Prisoners Release

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released early under the Government's early release scheme from HMP Whitemoor in the last 12 months. [227785]

Mr. Hanson: There have been no prisoners released from Whitemoor prison under the end of custody licence (ECL) scheme in the 12 month period up to the end of end of August 2008, the latest period for which data are available.

Data for all prisons are published monthly, in the statistical bulletin End of Custody Licence releases and recalls, available from the Library of the House and the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Whitemoor Prison: Working Hours

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of staff working shifts was in each of the last three years at HMP Whitemoor. [227779]

Mr. Hanson: Unified grades are contracted to work a 39 hour week, over a period of five days. The average length of a contracted shift is therefore seven hours and 48 minutes.

Staff at Whitemoor also have the option to work "Payment Plus" and many have taken the option to do so.

Payment Plus is a system of working additional hours over and above conditioned hours and attracts an enhanced rate of pay.

To calculate the effect of Payment Plus hours on the average shift length would involve considerable disproportionate cost.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on young offenders, what the average length of sentence was for young offenders convicted for offences involving *(a)* violence against a person, *(b)* burglary, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* sexual offences and *(e)* illegal drugs where a custodial sentence was handed down in 2005. [228891]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Statistics are provided on a calendar year basis for 2005.

Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] for various offence groups by age group, all courts, England and Wales, 2005

Average length of sentence (months)

Offence description	*Age group* *Juveniles—10 to 17-year-olds*	*Young adults—18 to 20-year-olds*	*10 to 20-year-olds*
Violence against the person	13.1	17.4	16.1
Burglary	9.3	13.9	12.2
Robbery	17.0	31.4	24.7
Sexual offences	29.7	34.4	32.4
Drug offences	15.2	26.5	24.3

[1] Months: excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Principal offence basis.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Insulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Midlands have budgeted for insulation improvements to their housing stock in 2008-09. [227547]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* Data on local authority budgeted capital spend are provided through the Business Plan Statistical Appendix. The returns for the financial year 2007-08, which contain the budget data for 2008-09, are expected to be published in November 2008.

The latest Business Plans by which local authorities provide the Department with such data give budgeted spend for 2007-08. For that year out of 205 local authorities who still owned council housing, 142 indicated they planned some spend on insulation activity during 2007-08. Five authorities did not provide data on this question.

In the East Midlands 16 out of 32 local authorities owning council housing planned some spend on insulation activity during 2007-08.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been agreed with each of her Department's non-departmental bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [228669]

Mr. Khan: The Department currently sponsors 11 executive non-departmental public bodies, as follows:

	Website
The Community Development Foundation	http://cdf.vbnlive.com/default.asp
English Partnerships	http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/
Firebuy	http://www.firebuy.gov.uk/
The Housing Corporation	http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/
The Housing Ombudsman Service	http://www.ihos.org.uk/
The Leasehold Advisory Service	http://www.lease-advice.org/
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	http://www.ltgdc.org.uk/
The Standards Board for England	http://www.standardsboard.gov.uk/
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	http://www.thurrocktgdc.org.uk/
The Valuation Tribunal Service	http://www.valuation-tribunals.gov.uk/
West Northants Development Corporation	http://www.wndc.co.uk/

I refer the hon. Gentlemen to bodies' websites via the links in the table. Available information on funding may be found in documents such as the bodies' corporate or business plans.

Eco-Towns

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether she or her Ministers will agree to meet members of the public from each selected eco-town site to discuss the relevant eco-town proposal; and if she will make a statement; [227541]

(2) what meetings she and the Minister of State for Housing have had on eco-towns since the latter's appointment; and if she will make a statement. [227349]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 308W. There have been no further visits to eco-town locations since the Housing Minister's recent appointment on 3 October. My right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) and I met residents from areas affected by eco-towns in the House on 30 June 2008.

Empty Property

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty houses suitable for occupation there were in each region in England in 2007-08. [227988]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on empty houses suitable for occupation is not held centrally.

Fire Services: Hotels

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to collect data on the number of fires in bed and breakfast establishments as a separate category from all existing accommodation premises; and if she will make a statement. [228454]

Mr. Khan: The new Incident Recording System, to which all Fire and Rescue Services will be submitting data from 2009-10, includes a category of building of 'Boarding House/Bed and Breakfast'.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review the implementation by fire and rescue authorities of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, in respect of its operation regarding bed and breakfast establishments. [228455]

Mr. Khan: We are at present carrying out an interim evaluation of the impact that the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 has had on the enforcers, responsible persons and the fire safety industry since it took effect in October 2006. This will gather qualitative information from a range of responsible persons within the business sector, including from small accommodation providers.

We will publish the evaluation report when it becomes available.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, *(b)* fire and rescue authorities and *(c)* representatives of tourism organisations in England on the implementation of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005; and if she will make a statement. [228459]

Mr. Khan: My predecessor met with the Minister for Tourism and representatives from VisitBritain on 21 July to discuss issues around implementation of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

My officials have also worked closely with officials in the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport, representatives of tourism organisations in England and with the Chief Fire Officers Association to produce tailored information on the Order specifically for responsible persons in the small, independent accommodation sector. We aim to publish this information shortly.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters there were per 100,000 residents in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the most recent date for which figures are available. [226377]

Mr. Khan: Information on the number of firefighters per 100,000 population in Northamptonshire and England is as follows.

Firefighters per 100,000 population

	Northamptonshire	England
1997-98	82	92
2006-07	83	89

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 322W, on home information packs, how many penalty charge notices have been issued for breaches of home information pack duties; and how many of these resulted in further legal action. [227378]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no requirement for the Department to be informed when a penalty charge notice is issued. Section 175 of the Housing Act 2004 requires enforcement authorities to notify the Office of Fair Trading where a penalty charge notice for a breach of the home information pack duties has been issued.

Housing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the capital value of *(a)* housing association and *(b)* council housing stock in each year since 1997. [228878]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 June 2008, *Official Report,* columns 29-31W.

Latest 2007 figures for local authorities from the capital outturn returns have been published since the original answer was provided. The latest figure for fixed assets is supplied in the following table.

Value of local authority fixed assets as at 31 March 2007

	£ million
All council dwellings	99,286

Notes:
1. LA stock valued at Existing Use Value: Social Housing (EUV-S[illegible] a statutory requirement as at 1 April 2000.
2. 1998 laid down in the Library of the House of Commons. Not available on the web.

Source:
Communities and Local Government, Local Government Financial Statistics England: Capital Outturn Return (COR) returns.

Figures on local authority fixed assets are published via the Department's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfs/2008/lgfs18/index.html

Housing: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new affordable homes were made available in Bournemouth in each of the last five years. [228888]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of new affordable homes provided in Bournemouth each year from 2002-03 to 2006-07.

	Number
2002-03	146
2003-04	221
2004-05	132
2005-06	101
2006-07	139

The figures show the number of new affordable homes provided in Bournemouth district council. Funding for some of these homes was provided by other local authorities. Bournemouth district council also funded affordable homes outside of its administrative boundary during this period.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for the introduction of new targets for housing provision in Bournemouth; and when she expects these plans to be brought forward. [228892]

Mr. Khan: The targets for housing provision in Bournemouth are set out in the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy, which is subject to public consultation until 24 October 2008. Following consideration of comments and views arising from this latest consultation period, the Secretary of State will publish the final regional spatial strategy.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes for rent or sale to local people were built in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [227978]

Mr. Iain Wright: There were 35,940 new affordable homes built in 2006-07. Figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Not all affordable housing is through new build completions. Supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2006-07, an additional 8,390 affordable homes were supplied through acquisitions which are not included in the figure above.

Affordable housing new build figures are from the Housing Corporation Investment Management System (IMS), and HSSA returns and P2 returns submitted to CLG by local authorities.

We do not have any information on whether affordable homes are let or sold to local people.

Inspections

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many inspectors were employed by her Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228090]

Mr. Khan: During the financial year 2007-08 the Planning Inspectorate, an Executive Agency of the Department for Communities and Local Government, employed a total of 293 (full-time equivalent) inspectors. For the financial year 1997-98 it employed a total of 198 (full-time equivalent) inspectors.

Local Government Services: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on providing services of each type in Torbay in each of the last five years. [228267]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally in the form requested. The following information is available however. Grants paid by Communities and Local Government, and predecessor Departments to Torbay borough council since 2003-04 were as follows:

Programme	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	£ million Total
Supporting People	6.252	6.322	5.949	5.849	5.833	30.205
Homelessness	0.062	0.060	0.198	0.080	0.060	0.460
Disabled Facilities Grants	0.255	0.250	0.292	0.328	0.328	1.453
Housing and Planning Delivery Grant	0.075	0.512	0.777	0.343	0.272	1.979
New Growth Points	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.662	0.662
Private Finance Initiative Westland and Homelands School (Phases 1 and 2)	1.780	1.713	1.425	1.425	1.425	7.768
Private Sector Renewal Regeneration	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.131	1.014	2.145
European Regional Development Fund	0.412	0.063	0.056	0.713	1.974	3.218
Total Non-Formula Grants	8.836	8.920	8.697	9.869	11.568	47.890
Formula Grants[1]	89.860	92.120	99.091	43.555	46.032	370.658

[1] (a) Formula Grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula Police Grant, SSA Reduction Grant (SSA Review), SSA Reduction Grant (Police Funding Review) and Central Support Protection Grant where appropriate.
(b) Prior to 2006-07 support for schools was paid through formula grant. In 2006-07 funding for schools transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant paid by DCFS.
(c) The amount of formula grant refers to the amount under the respective amending reports for those years. Further information on formula grant for Torbay can be found at
http://www.localcommunities.gov.uk/finance/0809/head0809s.xls.

Maps: Licensing

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether plans are in place to simplify the re-use of licences for Ordnance Survey mapping data. [228401]

Mr. Iain Wright: In common with other Trading Funds, Ordnance Survey is currently subject to an Assessment by The Shareholder Executive on behalf of Government. Once the Trading Funds Assessment is concluded and has reported to Government, Ministers will consider, if necessary consult, and then make decisions based upon the recommendations made by the assessment. Ordnance Survey will then develop and implement any necessary changes to its licences in line with these decisions.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for whom she has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228543]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government is an equal opportunities employer. The Department collects data volunteered by staff on whether or not they consider themselves to have a disability. The Department does not collect data as to the nature of the disability.

The Department supports and develops staff who declare disabilities. Our staff counsellors are trained to offer support on a number of mental health issues. We also offer reasonable adjustments to help staff enter and remain in the workplace, whether a disability is physical or mental in nature. In line with Civil Service policy, our recruitment campaigns make clear that we welcome applicants who consider themselves to have a disability.

Guidance on managing staff with mental health issues is also available to all line managers and, as part of the Department's Equalities Month in November, we are running a workshop on this issue in conjunction with City and Hackney MIND.

Planning Obligations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether monies collected under section 106 agreements can be used to pay for infrastructure projects other than those specified in the original agreement. [227345]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State's policy on planning obligations is set out in Government Circular 05/05, which is available in the Library of the House. The Secretary of State's policy says that planning obligations (also known as section 106 agreements) can be attached to a planning permission to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. Such obligations can prescribe the nature of development, compensate for loss or damage created by a development, or mitigate a development's impact. Planning obligations must be directly relevant to the proposed development. However, the impacts of a proposed development may extend beyond the immediate development site and therefore, developer contributions can be used to mitigate these off-site.

Contributions may either be in kind or in the form of a financial contribution. Policies on types of payment, including pooling and maintenance payments, should be set out in local development frameworks. There should be a clear audit trail between the contribution made and the infrastructure provided. The use of developer contributions under section 106 agreements should reflect the purpose for which they were collected and be directly relevant to the proposed development. Therefore, monies collected under section 106 agreements should not be used to pay for infrastructure which was not intended by the original agreement. Planning obligations should never be used purely as a means of securing for the local community a share in the profits of development. The policy indicates that in the event that contributions are made towards specific infrastructure provision but the infrastructure is not provided within an agreed timeframe, arrangements should be made for contributions to be returned to developers. Local planning authorities must take the Secretary of State's policy into account and have reasons for departing from it.

Planning Permission: Northamptonshire

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of housing were given planning permission in Northamptonshire in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [227634]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities (LPAs) submit returns to CLG on the number of planning decisions on major and minor residential developments, including percentage of decisions approved and the percentage approved within targets. However these returns do not include the number of housing units covered by each decision.

In order to gain the information requested, the Government office east midlands has therefore approached the LPAs direct. In aggregating the figures for the number of housing units granted planning permission each year, some authorities have supplied net figures (i.e. excluding renewals or amendments of sites that already have planning permission). Where outline planning permission has been granted, the number of units is not always stated in the planning application and an assessment has to be made of the capacity of a site. This means that the statistics provided are not always on a common base.

The following table includes the returns for each district in Northamptonshire.

Local planning authority	*Housing units granted planning permission 2005-06*	*Housing units granted planning permission 2006/07*	*Housing units granted planning permission 2007-08*
Corby	658	5889	143
Daventry	324	101	119
East Northamptonshire	359	244	111
Kettering	772	859	597
Northampton	646	500	693
South Northamptonshire	306	208	216

Local planning authority	*Housing units granted planning permission 2005-06*	*Housing units granted planning permission 2006/07*	*Housing units granted planning permission 2007-08*
Wellingborough	563	257	3,710
Total	3,628	8,058	5,589

The figures for Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire include any applications approved by the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation who handle some major housing applications in these areas.

Planning: Sports

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account her Department takes of the public health benefit of developments that encourage physical activity and sport in designing planning policy. [228694]

Mr. Iain Wright: The promotion of public health and well-being is a central component of the Government's objectives for sustainable development. "Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development" (PPS1) which sets out the overarching planning policy in England, requires development plans to support the promotion of health and well-being by making provision for physical activity, and to address accessibility for all members of the community to leisure and community facilities.

Specific guidance on how local authorities should plan for new sports and recreational facilities to meet the needs of local communities is set out in "Planning Policy Guidance note 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation" (PPG 17).

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account will be taken of the public health benefit of developments that promote physical activity and sport in designating exemptions from the Community Infrastructure Levy. [228695]

Mr. Iain Wright: As my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government (John Healey) stated when the Planning Bill was in Commons Committee, our principal starting point is that almost all developments will have some imposition and impact on the need for infrastructure, and some call on local services or amenities—including those developments that promote public health, physical activity and sport. For instance, a new swimming pool or sports centre will have impacts upon the local road network. In addition, exemptions to, or reductions from, CIL may cause complexity and distortion and reduce fairness. Therefore, the Government envisage that most types of development will be liable to pay CIL.

The Government will however consider the case for exemptions when consulting on the regulations to implement CIL, and will set out the exemptions available in the final regulations. Any exemptions we create must be legally robust and based on coherent criteria, such as those set out at page 60 of the CIL policy document published in August.

Our document is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/communityinfrastructurelevy.pdf

Powers of Entry

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many powers of entry her Department and its predecessors have *(a)* introduced in legislation and *(b)* repealed since 1997. [228619]

Mr. Khan: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W.

Regional Planning and Development: Renewable Energy

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will assess the effect of the implementation of the Government's Green Belt policy and Planning Policy Guidance 2 on policies which aim to tackle climate change by promoting small-scale renewable energy projects such as domestic wind turbines; [228399]

(2) whether she plans to review the planning policy regulations as they apply to small-scale renewable energy projects in the green belt. [228400]

Mr. Iain Wright: This summer's consultation on the Government's Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) has looked at how the UK is to achieve its share of the target that 20 per cent. of the EU's energy consumption must come from renewable sources by 2020. The RES explains that the substantial switch to renewables in the timescale required cannot be achieved without the right response from the planning system. National planning policies already expect regional and local planners to actively plan for and support renewable energy generation. The RES acknowledges however that it may not always be clear to local planning authorities, applicants and other users how elements of this framework come together in any given case. We have therefore said we will ensure our planning policies for renewable energy are updated quickly to reflect the new RES when in place next year.

Planning Policy Statement 22 on renewable energy already makes it clear that the very special circumstances required to justify the grant of planning permission for inappropriate development in a green belt may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources. Planning authorities have also been advised not to reject planning applications simply because the level of output is small.

Separately, we are also freeing up from the need to apply for planning permission those small-scale renewable energy projects that can be supported as permitted development. In April 2008 amendments were made to the General Permitted Development Order which enable small-scale domestic microgeneration development including solar ground and water-source heat pumps, biomass heating and combined heat and power systems to proceed without the need for a specific planning application. Further amendments are planned for micro wind turbines and air source heat pumps once the issue of potential nuisance to neighbours from noise has been resolved. We are also considering the scope for extending permitted development rights to non-domestic small-scale renewables.

Regional Planning and Development: Retail Trade

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research she has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* evaluated and *(c)* undertaken on the effects of planning regulation upon small independent retailers; and whether such research includes analysis of the effects of large-scale, out-of-town developments on small retailers. [227614]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our "Proposed Changes to Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres", published for consultation on 10 July 2008, which seeks to improve the effectiveness of our town centre policy and strengthen our policy protection for small shops, and the vitality and viability of town centres, was accompanied by a detailed assessment of the impact of our proposals and the supporting evidence base. The assessment takes account of a number of studies, particularly the Parliamentary All Party Small Shops Group report "High Street Britain: 2015", published in 2006, and the detailed analysis by the Competition Commission groceries market investigation into the extent to which there are distortions in competition between large grocery retailers and convenience store operators. Our assessment has also drawn upon a number of other studies to inform our proposals, including:

1. Our research report on the "Policy Evaluation of the Effectiveness of PPG6" which we published in 2004;
2. Research into "The role and vitality of Secondary Shopping", published by the National Retail Planning Forum in 2004, which was co-sponsored by the Department;
3. The "Smaller Towns Report", published by the British Council of Shopping Centres in 2004; and
4. A report on the future of retail property "In town or out of town?", published by the British Council of Shopping Centres in 2006.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants in her Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since its inception. [229111]

Mr. Khan: Since the inception of Communities and Local Government on 5 May 2006, the Department has seconded one civil servant to a trade union.

Urban Areas: Regeneration

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of development corporations in meeting their objectives. [227635]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are three Urban Development Corporations (UDCs) in England: London Thames Gateway Development Corporation; Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation; and West Northamptonshire Development Corporation. All three are executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by Communities and Local Government whose performance is assessed through the Corporate Plan, Business Plan and Annual Report process.

All three UDCs have recently had their Corporate Plans signed off by Ministers. The Corporate Plans establish the strategic direction, investment priorities and delivery targets of the Corporations for the next three years (2008-09 to 2010-11).

Under the terms of their management statement each UDC is scheduled to undergo a full review after five years. The reviews for all three UDCs are scheduled to take place in 2009.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department *(a)* promotes and *(b)* funds the promotion of days or weeks dedicated to animal welfare. [227735]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not promote or fund the promotion of days or weeks dedicated to animal welfare.

Arts

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which regional development agencies have established regional beacons for the creative industries; and what the cost of doing so has been for each. [227174]

Barbara Follett: Seven Regional Development Agencies are part of the project for a network of beacons for creative industries business support leads. Those involved are; South East Regional Development Agency; South West Regional Development Agency; East Midlands Regional Development Agency; West Midlands Regional Development Agency; Yorkshire Forward; North-West Regional Development Agency; and One North-East. The costs of running the project during 2008-09 is approximately £80,000.

Arts: Greater London

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to better champion London's creative festivals. [227182]

Barbara Follett: In February this year the Government published 'Creative Britain, New Talents for the New Economy', our strategy for the creative industries. Following discussions with representatives of the office of the Mayor of London and other partners, the strategy set out a shared aspiration to champion London's many creative festivals and forge better, mutually beneficial links with important festivals around the country.

'Creative Britain' also expresses the Government's strong support for established London festivals such as the London Film Festival, London Fashion Week, the London Games Festival, London Design Week and the Frieze Art Fair.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226964]

Andy Burnham: The then Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell), hosted a Christmas reception for the Department's non-departmental public bodies in December 2007, at a cost of £11,600; and a reception for journalists at a cost of £1,637. He attended 10 Christmas functions in total while in post.

The annual staff party at DCMS is self-funded by staff, and any profits made are donated to the DCMS Civil Service Sports & Social Club account. Information on functions that DCMS officials attended or hosted could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has only one executive agency, The Royal Parks (TRP). The TRP held an annual staff Christmas party in 2007. This was paid for by TRP directors and not the public purse. All TRP staff were also invited to the winter wonderland fair in Hyde park by the organizer of the event. A further seven Christmas functions attended by a TRP staff member were recorded in the Agency's hospitality register. There was no cost to the public purse.

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff were employed by his Department to work on heritage in each year since 1997. [224762]

Barbara Follett: Such headcount information as is available is shown in the following table:

	Headcount
2003-04	37
2004-05	38
2005-06	37
2006-07	36
2007-08	30

These figures represent the position at the end of each financial year.

Culture: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much under each budgetary heading his Department spent on strategic commissioning in each of the last five years. [224841]

Barbara Follett: In the past five years, the Department has spent sums on strategic commissioning in the following areas:

(i) Strategic Commissioning programme for museums and galleries

The total amount spent on the Strategic Commissioning programme for museums and galleries in the past five years is set out in the following table:

	£ million
2003-04	2.495
2004-05	2.284
2005-06	4.593
2006-07	4.551
2007-08	4.029

(ii) Development of youth theatre

In 2005, the Department allocated £1.8 million in strategic commissioning funding to the Arts Council for England for the development of youth theatre for the period 2005-08. The Young People's Participatory Theatre project received £1.58 million of this funding up to the end of 2007-08.

(iii) Culture Online

Culture Online, a DCMS programme, established in 2002 and ending in March 2007, received £13 million of funding from the Department for the strategic commissioning of a range of projects. Further details of this funding can be found in the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) to the hon. Member on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2124W.

Departmental Income

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department received from each of its sponsored bodies and agencies in each year since 1997. [225681]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1298-1300W by my hon. Friend the Minister of Sport about the material financial transactions recorded on our systems relating to rental income. The identification of additional transactions could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on employing press officers in each of the last five years. [224863]

Barbara Follett: The total annual cost (including employer's costs) of employing press officers in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

	DCMS (£)
2003-04	396,881
2004-05	440,314
2005-06	491,402
2006-07	689,163
2007-08	633,807

The costs increased in 2006-07 due to the need to employ additional press officers to deal with Olympic issues, following London's successful bid in July 2005 to host the 2012 games.

Information for 2008-09 has not been included as the current year's expenditure has not yet been audited.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228766]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department can provide only partial information on the total expenditure as some transactions have been amalgamated into general travel and subsistence claims and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The figure provided is the total amount spent on individual government procurement cards for the last 12 months up to and including the end of September 2008.

The total amount spent on accommodation was £43,748.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which were the three most expensive appointments in relation to recruitment advertising in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in each case. [225472]

Barbara Follett: The three most expensive appointments in relation to recruitment advertising in the last two financial years are set out in the following table:

		£
2006-07	Permanent secretary	57,000.00
	Administrative officers (25 vacancies)	21,054.00
	Sport communications co-ordinator	5,000.00
2007-08		
	The Head of Communications, Government Olympic Executive	30,069.00
	Director general, Government Olympic Executive	87,395.00
	Finance and Programme director, Government Olympic Executive	63,271.00

The recruitment related costs for the period 2005-06 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of written Questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226900]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of named day written questions answered on the named day in the current parliamentary session by DCMS Ministers is 202 (39.8 per cent.).

Festivals and Special Occasions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on days of *(a)* religious and *(b)* cultural celebration in the last 12 months. [227733]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Over the last 12 months, the Department has not spent anything on religious days and has spent £1,230 on cultural celebrations.

Film: Digital Technology

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which locations have been selected to host mixed media centres as set out in the cross-departmental report, New Talents for the New Economy. [227183]

Barbara Follett: In "Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy" we outlined six venues that would be used as indicative case studies. They are Broadway, Nottingham; Cornerhouse, Manchester; Foundation for Art and Creative Technology, Liverpool; Sheffield Media and Exhibition Centre, Sheffield; Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Watershed, Bristol.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Heritage Lottery Fund has received from the National Lottery Distribution Fund in each year since 2000 in 2007-08 prices. [225505]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The amounts drawn down by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) from the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) in each year are set out in the following table:

Amounts drawn down by HLF from the NLDF (2007-08 prices)

	£000
2000-01	348,795
2001-02	308,635
2002-03	302,177
2003-04	359,219
2004-05	332,942
2005-06	396,130
2006-07	378,435
2007-08	309,868

Inspections

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many inspectors were employed by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228086]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No inspectors were employed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98.

Licensing Act 2003

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations the Government has received on the operation of the Licensing Act 2003. [228884]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department continues to receive a number of letters from hon. Members and members of the public on general licensing issues. More specifically, two recent consultations on minor variations and proposals to allow the removal of the requirement for a designated premises supervisor for village and other community halls, attracted 83 and 67 responses respectively.

Living Places Partnership: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Sport England, *(c)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(d)* English Heritage and *(e)* Arts Council England contributed to the Living Places Partnership in each of the last three years. [225690]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information from the Living Places Partnership, is that DCMS, SE, MLA and EH contributed £20,000 in 2007-08, and ACE provided £82,254. In 2006-07, some Living Places partner organisations contributed in-kind through their time on developing the plans for Living Places. There were no formal partnership subscriptions for Living Places in 2005-06.

National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts. [224858]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) currently employs an executive director of communications, a media manager and a commercial assistant.

National Identity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions on the possibility of introducing a UK-wide British Day; and if he will make a statement. [227732]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply as the Minister responsible for the Governance of Britain agenda.

The Prime Minister asked Lord Goldsmith to carry out a review of citizenship as part of the Governance of Britain programme. Lord Goldsmith reported to the Prime Minister in March 2008. Among his recommendations was considering the case for creating a national day focused on ideas about shared citizenship.

A number of Lord Goldsmith's recommendations merit further consideration across Government and will be taken into account in discussion and debate on policy development in these areas. However, there are no plans to introduce a national day at the present time.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government plans to take to develop new sporting talent to participate in the London 2012 Olympics. [225571]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 9 October 2008]*: The Government and UK Sport are providing significant exchequer and lottery funding to Olympic and Paralympic sports through the World Class Performance programme. This funding supports podium level athletes with medal winning capabilities at 2012, development level athletes with medal winning prospects at future Olympic and Paralympic games, and the identification of athletes who have the potential to become podium and development level athletes.

In addition, UK Sport, in partnership with the English Institute of Sport and Paralympics GB, has developed a number of specific talent identification and development programmes for 2012, including Pitch2Podium, for example, which aims to recruit released academy footballers onto fast track Olympic development programmes.

Playing Fields: Planning Permission

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish his Department's statistics on planning applications affecting playing fields in 2006-07. [227385]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that in December 2008 it intends to publish statistics on planning applications affecting playing fields in 2006- 07.

Public Libraries: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding public libraries received from the public purse in each year since 1997, expressed in 2008 prices. [227384]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is as follows:

British Library

DCMS grant in aid funding for the British Library is shown in the following table:

British Library funding, incorporating resource and capital grant in aid

£ million

	Historic prices	*Current prices*[1]
2006-07	104.4	107.6
2005-06	102.6	108.6
2004-05	100.6	108.7
2003-04	90.1	100.0
2002-03	86.1	98.2
2001-02	85.1	100.2
2000-01	82.2	99.0
1999-2000	83.2	101.5
1998-99	80.4	100.0
1997-98	87.2	110.8

Public library funding

Government funding is provided to the full range of public libraries through a number of channels. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) provide funding in support of particular projects and programmes. The funding provided since 1997-98 is as follows:

MLA support for public libraries[2]

	Historic prices	£ million Current prices[1]
2006-07	[3]3.7	3.8
2005-06	5.1	5.4
2004-05	6.3	6.8
2003-04	5.0	5.6
2002-03	6.1	7.0
2001-02	5.4	6.4
2000-01	1.7	2.1
1999-2000	4.3	5.3
1998-99	0.7	0.9
1997-98	0.5	0.6

In addition DCMS/Wolfson Public Library Challenge Fund funding in support of reading activities was as follows:

DCS/Wolfson Public Library Challenge Fund

	Historic prices	£ million Current prices[1]
2001-02	2.8	3.3
2000-01	2.9	3.5
1999-2000	2.9	3.5
1998-99	1.9	2.4
1997-98	2.3	2.9

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has policy responsibility for public libraries but core funding for public libraries is paid to the 149 library authorities in England as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Local authorities' net current expenditure on public libraries, as advised by DCLG, is set out in the following table.

Net current expenditure (public libraries, England)

	Historic prices	£000 Current prices[1]
2006-07	889,382	916,605
2005-06	865,161	915,660
2004-05	825,327	891,388
2003-04	796,169	883,278
2002-03	757,737	864,602
2001-02	704,123	829,326
2000-01	666,206	802,165
1999-2000	644,321	785,987
1998-99	624,388	776,641
1997-98	607,045	771,135

[1] Calculated using Gross Domestic Product deflators 2007-08 supplied by Her Majesty's Treasury.

[2] Museums, Libraries and Archives Council spend that cannot be directly attributed to one of the three domains is excluded from the table.

[3] This is a final figure and supersedes provisional figures supplied to Parliament at a previous date.

Regional Arts Councils: Manpower

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many people were employed by each regional arts council in 2007-08; [224167]

(2) how many people were employed by the regional arts boards of the Arts Council in 1997-08; [224168]

(3) how many people were employed by Arts Council England *(a)* nationally and *(b)* regionally in (i) 1997-08 and (ii) 2007-08. [224169]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been provided by Arts Council England (ACE) and is set out in the table. In order to interpret the data in the table, it is important to realise that in 1997-98, the Arts Council of England and the 10 Regional Arts Boards were separate organisations, whereas in 2007-08, ACE compromised a national office and nine regional offices.

Heads						
Core/specific project	*Organisation*	*1997-98*	*2007-08*	*Grand total*	*1997-98*	*2007-08*
Core	Arts Council—National Office	—	157	157	—	—
	Arts Council of England	215.5	—	215.5	215.5	157
	East	—	40	40	—	—
	East Midlands	—	43	43	—	—
	East Midlands Arts Board	37	—	37	—	—
	Eastern Arts Board	43	—	43	—	—
	London	49	95	144	—	—
	North East	—	34	34	—	—
	North West	—	54	54	—	—
	North West Arts	45	—	45	—	—
	Northern Arts	38	—	38	—	—
	South East	—	43	43	—	—
	South East Arts	30	—	30	—	—
	South West	—	48	48	—	—
	South West Arts	29	—	29	—	—
	Southern Arts	34	—	34	—	—
	West Midlands	—	48	48	—	—
	West Midlands Arts	39	—	39	—	—

Heads *Core/specific project*	*Organisation*	*1997-98*	*2007-08*	*Grand total*	*1997-98*	*2007-08*
	Yorkshire	40	39	79	384	444
Core total		599.5	601	1,200.5	599.5	601
Specific project	Arts Council—National Office	—	52	52	—	52
	East	—	8	8	—	—
	East Midlands	—	15	15	—	—
	London	—	15	15	—	—
	North East	—	18	18	—	—
	North West	—	15	15	—	—
	South East	—	24	24	—	—
	South West	—	13	13	—	—
	South West Arts	5	—	5	—	—
	West Midlands	—	11	11	—	—
	Yorkshire	—	11	11	5	130
Specific project total		5	182	187	5	182
Grand total		604.5	783	1387.5	604.5	783
Less Creative Partnerships		—	—	—	—	142
Core activities and non-CP projects		—	—	—	604.5	641

Sports: Finance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what analysis he has made of the elite sports which field teams to represent Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland which receive no funds from UK Sport. [226822]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have not made any analysis of the elite sports which field teams to represent Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Sport is a devolved matter, and the Devolved Administrations are responsible for analysis of the respective national teams.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent from the public purse per head on sport in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* urban areas in 2007-08. [227991]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not draw a distinction between urban and rural areas. Detail on lottery grants is held on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport lottery grants database by constituency and local authority. An award may be sent to an address in an urban area for use in a rural area.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of expenditure on sport which was funded by *(a)* public money, *(b)* sponsorship and *(c)* other sources in 2007-08 . [227992]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The expenditure on sport in the tax year 2007-08 which was funded by public money (lottery and Exchequer funding) is as follows:

The amount drawn down by the lottery sport distributors, consisting of Sport England, Sports Council Wales, Sport Scotland, Sports Northern Ireland and UK Sport according to the un-audited national lottery distribution fund's annual accounts in 2007-08 was £216.111 million.

The amount drawn down by the Olympic lottery distributor from the Olympic lottery distribution fund in 2007-08 was £198.846 million. Again, this is an un-audited figure. In addition, some grants made by the Big Lottery Fund may have benefited groups related to sport.

The amount of Exchequer funding was £193.9 million.

My Department does not hold records of the expenditure on sport from either sponsorship or other sources. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sports: Hearing Impaired

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reason Government funding has been withdrawn from the British team for the 2009 Deaflympics in Taiwan; how much has been withdrawn; how many deaf athletes will be affected; and if he will make a statement. [227066]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 October 2008]*: Government funding was never committed to the 2009 Deaflympics. Funding has previously consisted of a single supplementary payment of £75,000 from UK Sport to the British Deaflympic team in 2005. UK Sport have since developed a new strategy focused on delivering success in the Paralympics and Olympics—through which deaf athletes are eligible for funding. From April 2005 to 31 March 2008, UK Sport also provided £42,000 a year for a development post in UK Deaf Sport. This funding has now ceased, bringing UK Deaf Sport in line with other national disability sports organisations. The English Federation of Disability Sport, funded by Sport England, provides these organisations with support at the grass-roots level. The Government remain hopeful that a British team will go to Taipei and that consequently deaf athletes will not be affected.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227044]

Andy Burnham: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in the Department's Staff guide under Travel and Subsistence and is consistent with the Civil Service Management Code.

The expenditure on taxis by the Department in each year since 2002 is set out in the table. These figures represent expenditure on taxis and black cabs. In addition, some expenditure on black cabs and taxis is included in general travel and subsistence account and cannot be separately identified except at disproportionate cost.

The Department's agency, The Royal Parks, does not itemise taxi costs separately on its accounting system and the cost of disaggregating this expenditure manually from the relevant travel claims would be disproportionate to the amounts involved.

	Amount (£)
2007-08	36,359
2006-07	38,421
2005-06	21,759
2004-05	22,157
2003-04	21,878
2002-03	16,109

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229094]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 2003 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have seconded to work for *(a)* trade unions, one civil servant from the Department to the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) from January 2006 to June 2007; *(b)* Trade Unions Congress, no civil servants.

World Heritage Policy Review

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects his Department to have completed its World Heritage Policy Review. [228539]

Barbara Follett: The Government are proposing to consult widely on its World Heritage Policy Review shortly. Following the consultation, should the Government decide to revise the UK tentative list of future nominations for World Heritage status, we anticipate the submission of a new list to UNESCO in 2011.

World Religion Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department allocated funding to the promotion of World Religion Day in each of the last five years. [227734]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not allocated any funding to the promotion of World Religion day in each of the last five years.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airports: Biometrics

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the compulsory biometric fingerprint checks of passengers on domestic flights will be introduced at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Manchester and *(d)* other airports; and which terminals at Heathrow and Gatwick airports will be included; [222777]

(2) whether an impact assessment has been made of the likely effect on passenger flows through *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Manchester and *(d)* other UK airports of mandatory biometric fingerprinting, if introduced; [222778]

(3) what discussions she has had with the Information Commissioner about the introduction of biometric fingerprint checks at Heathrow and other UK airports. [222779]

Mr. Woolas: Where there is a mixing of domestic and international passengers in a common departure lounge, the Government are considering requiring airport operators to verify the identity of travellers before boarding. This could be done through the use of biometrics such as fingerprints where it is considered a proportionate measure to manage border security. No final decisions have yet been taken on the proposal.

As part of their consideration, the Government will have due regard to the potential impact that this might have on passenger flows and are committed to working with airport operators to minimise any impacts where possible.

The Government have had several discussions with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on the issue of passenger verification at common departure lounges. The Government will continue to work closely with airport operators and the ICO on the measures required to maintain the security of the UK border and of air travel.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were fined *(a)* up to £100, *(b)* £101 to £250 and *(c)* more than £250 for refusing to stop drinking or to surrender alcohol in a public place in each year since 2003. [228122]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The number of people fined, and the level of fines received, for refusing to stop drinking and surrender alcohol in a designated public place can be found in the following table.

Number of persons given fines for the offence of alcohol consumption in designated public places, by amount, all courts, England and Wales, 2003 to 2006

Number of persons

		Fine amounts			
Offence description		*Up to and including £100*	*£101 to £250*	*Over £250*	*Total*
Alcohol consumption in designated public places	2003	71	1	1	73
	2004	76	2	—	78
	2005	61	2	—	63
	2006	58	1	—	59

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services.

Asylum

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to determine the immigration status of Zardash Budarham Hussain, reference: H1079437. [221794]

Mr. Woolas: My predecessor wrote to the hon. Member on 30 July 2008.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers remained in the UK following the failure of their asylum application in each of the last five years; for what reasons failed asylum seekers are not removed from the UK; and if she will make a statement. [221894]

Mr. Woolas: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994, no Government has been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and that includes failed asylum seekers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by December 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) will only seek to enforce removal when the asylum application has been unsuccessful having been fully determined, including the exhaustion of suspensive appeal rights.

The Enforcement business plan 'Enforcing the Deal' published in June 2008, sets out the UKBA's priorities for enforcing the immigration laws in the UK communities and increasing removals. Copies of this document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08_09/enforcementbusinessplan08_09.pdf?view=Binary

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have claimed asylum in the UK in each year since 2000; and how many of those people came from Commonwealth countries, other than Zimbabwe, in each year. [227834]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of people (principal applicants and dependants) who have claimed asylum is unavailable, by nationality, prior to 2002. The following table shows all nationalities and total Commonwealth principal asylum applications from 2000 to 2007. The Commonwealth total comprises 51 countries: this excludes United Kingdom, Fiji and Zimbabwe (Fiji was suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth in December 2006 and Zimbabwe withdrew from the Commonwealth in 2003).

Asylum applications received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, 2000-07[1]

	Total	*Commonwealth total*
2000[2]	22,880	17,370
2001	71,025	15,820
2002	84,130	14,345
2003	49,405	10,425
2004	33,960	7,575
2005	25,710	5,665
2006	23,610	4,775
2007[3]	23,430	5,110

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five.
[2] Excludes Antigua and Barbuda, Can[illegible]a, Malta, Samoa, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad And Tobago.
[3] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Employment

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what conditions asylum seekers may work when their application has not been determined after 12 months through no fault of theirs. [227549]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* An asylum applicant may apply for permission to take up employment if a decision at first instance has not been taken on the applicant's asylum application within one year of the date on which it was recorded. The application to take employment will only be considered if the delay in reaching a decision cannot be attributed to the applicant. If permission to work is granted, this precludes self-employment, business or professional activity.

Asylum: Kosovo

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the safety of Kosovo for the purposes of making determinations on asylum applications; and if she will make a statement. [222732]

Mr. Woolas: As with all other asylum claims, Kosovan claims are considered very carefully on their individual merits against the background of the latest country information in accordance with our international obligations. We closely monitor conditions in Kosovo and those individuals able to demonstrate a need for international protection will be granted asylum or a different form of leave as appropriate. Kosovan nationals who have been found not to need international protection, and who have no right to remain in the UK but refuse to leave voluntarily, are liable to be removed.

Asylum: Somalia

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons from Somalia applied to enter the UK for the purposes of seeking asylum in each of the last 10 years. [228206]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of persons from Somalia who applied to enter the UK for the purposes of seeking asylum in each of the last 10 years is published in Table 2.1 of Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007 available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

For convenience the table is shown as follows:

Applications[1] received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, by country of nationality, 1998 to 2007, Somalia

	Number
1998	4,685
1999	7,495
2000	5,020
2001	6,420
2002	6,540
2003	5,090
2004	2,585
2005	1,760
2006	1,845
2007	1,615

P = Provisional figures.
n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five (- = 0, * = one or 2).
Note:
1 May exclude some cases lodged at local enforcement offices between January 1999 and March 2000.

Community Support Officers: Manpower

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers have been employed in each police force area in each year since their introduction. [227282]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the following table:

Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force, as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2008[3]

	31 March each year					
Police force	*2003*	*2004*	*2005[4]*	*2006[4]*	*2007[4]*	*2008[4]*
Avon and Somerset	0	45	139	130	302	377
Bedfordshire	0	12	40	41	83	120
Cambridgeshire	6	57	86	101	184	197
Cheshire	2	50	52	75	176	231
Cleveland	37	77	75	100	114	170
Cumbria	0	0	17	17	85	99
Derbyshire	0	0	43	42	181	166
Devon and Cornwall	19	51	74	74	317	354
Dorset	6	8	47	61	122	151
Durham	10	28	69	67	142	162
Essex	10	86	179	192	388	436
Gloucestershire	0	54	72	72	169	162
Greater Manchester	160	173	269	251	763	773
Hampshire	0	0	26	30	296	324
Hertfordshire	14	46	98	139	223	246
Humberside	0	0	20	20	194	318
Kent	0	59	105	97	203	377
Lancashire	77	110	161	184	374	400
Leicestershire	28	41	103	136	216	212
Lincolnshire	29	38	75	78	147	165
London, City of	0	0	14	11	36	46
Merseyside	40	72	170	196	332	407
Metropolitan Police	513	1,463	2,147	2,315	3,694	4,247
Norfolk	12	33	68	65	176	274
Northamptonshire	12	10	37	40	129	159
Northumbria	0	51	126	129	248	254
North Yorkshire	0	52	75	71	147	180
Nottinghamshire	10	56	108	112	217	259
South Yorkshire	14	59	124	121	302	334
Staffordshire	0	7	63	70	203	209
Suffolk	0	15	34	30	123	140
Surrey	21	56	115	126	203	211
Sussex	22	83	228	257	352	372

Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force, as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2008[3]

Police force	2003	2004	2005[4]	2006[4]	2007[4]	2008[4]
	31 March each year					
Thames Valley	0	7	98	130	213	521
Warwickshire	11	25	56	64	127	133
West Mercia	8	57	81	85	217	272
West Midlands	0	39	219	252	644	748
West Yorkshire	70	265	394	462	690	757
Wiltshire	15	23	41	57	121	147
Dyfed-Powys	0	5	25	26	77	73
Gwent	30	45	77	76	105	139
North Wales	0	0	59	58	145	159
South Wales	0	59	107	111	314	327
Total England and Wales	1,176	3,418	6,214	6,769	13,497	15,805

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[4] Strength figures as at 31 March 2005 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

Crime: Computers

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions were made for fraud committed against British victims on internet auction websites and online marketplaces in each of the last three years; [226674]

(2) how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions were made for illegal file sharing of copyrighted music or video via the internet in each of the last three years; [226675]

(3) how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions were made for selling counterfeit DVDs in each of the last three years. [226676]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, such as violence against the person and robbery. It is not possible to identify specific offences, or the individual circumstances of offences from within the main offence groups. The offence of selling counterfeit DVDs is not a notifiable offence and does not form a part of the arrests collection.

Although data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on prosecutions and convictions do contain information on the statute under which individuals are prosecuted, such as the Trade Marks Act 1994, Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, and the Computer Misuse Act 1990, the data available do not provide information on victims, nor the particulars of each case for example whether a prosecution was for illegal file sharing or another action covered by the statute.

Customs: Patrol Craft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many customs patrol boats there are based on the Fylde coast; and where they are based. [223694]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency cutters are deployed on an intelligence-led basis to areas of highest risk. It is long standing HM Revenue and Customs policy not to divulge details of operational deployments or locations as these could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent relevant controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention of crime.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether those staff of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222042]

Mr. Woolas: Home Office staff are expected to use the most efficient and cost-effective means of air travel and are not allowed to benefit from savings gained by travelling in a cheaper class.

This applies both to the choice of air travel and to the choice of particular flights—staff are expected to take advantage of cheap travel offers whenever possible.

Home Office terms and conditions relating to travel expenses are set out in accordance with the principles contained in the travel section of the Civil Service Management Code issued by HM Treasury.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report,* column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government Departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that her Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul flights. [222044]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office participates in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund which is co-ordinated by DEFRA. This ensures the Department offsets carbon dioxide emissions from its official air travel.

Figures for 2006-07 (the only year for which data have been published) are set out in the following table. These data cover some business areas that are now part of Ministry of Justice.

Home Office[1], 2006-07

	km
Domestic air travel	[2]—
Short-haul air travel	7,412,208
Long-haul air travel	7,777,611
Totals	15,189,819

[1] Includes core Home Office, UK Borders Agency, Identity and Passport Service, parts of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), excluding prison service since transferred to the Ministry of Justice, as well as data from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR).

[2] Not separately recorded.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222038]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has not occupied any offices it has newly refurbished at a cost of over £1 million in the last 24 months. Records are not kept centrally of refurbishments below £1 million in value or of refurbishments carried out by landlords prior to the properties being leased.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in her Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223060]

Mr. Woolas: We cannot identify the five most serious disciplinary breaches as disciplinary offences are not ranked in terms of seriousness. Dismissal is the highest penalty awarded for a discipline breach.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department and its agencies were *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in each of the last 10 years. [227079]

Jacqui Smith: The following table sets out the information available on the number of staff *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct within Home Office HQ, the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Breakdown of disciplinary action across the Home Office

Year[1]	*Dismissed*	*Disciplined short of dismissal*
2005-06	62	132
2006-07	67	150
2007-08	71	193
2008-09[2]	16	55
Total	216	530

[1] *Information prior to 2005-06 is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.*

[2] *2008-09 figures include information up to 30 September 2008 for Home Office HQ, IPS and CRB and information to 30 June 2008 for UKBA. UKBA figures for 1 July-30 September 2008 are currently unavailable due to structural changes being made to the computer system used to record this information.*

The Department's disciplinary procedures have a number of stages, some informal and some formal. Information on the procedures is available to staff through the Department's intranet sites, to which all staff have access.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1432W, on departmental home working, if she will make it her policy to collate and maintain central records of home working by her Department's staff. [222468]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has no plans to collate and maintain central records of the home working arrangements of its staff.

Home working covers a variety of arrangements and can be undertaken on a formal or informal basis. Any decision to allow a member of staff to work from home is made locally by business units. For this reason records are kept centrally only where the arrangement necessitates a change to the employee's contract of employment.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what types of data have been sold by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222043]

Mr. Woolas: Core information produced by the Home Office can be re-used free of charge under the terms of the PSI Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in her Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222041]

Mr. Woolas: None. There is no policy to provide permanent residential accommodation for use by the Home Office civil servants.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in her Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226421]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the information requested.

In Home Office Headquarters and the UK Border Agency, special bonuses are awarded for exceptional outstanding achievements by staff, including Senior Civil Servants, in particularly demanding tasks or situations at any time of the year. Annual, appraisal-related bonuses are made to individuals at Grade 6 and below making exceptional contribution throughout the year. Senior Civil Servants can be awarded performance bonuses as set out in the Senior Salaries Review Body report number 62.

Staff in the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) receive end of year corporate bonuses, and change agent bonuses. Staff in the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) do not receive end of year bonuses. Staff however, do receive special bonus payments.

Table 1: Non-pensionable bonuses awarded (2007-08): Home Office end of year performance and special bonus

Type of bonus	*Year paid*	*Amount paid (£)*	*Number of payments made*
End of year bonus	2007-08	4,482,371	5,657
Special bonus	2007-08	2,564,759	3,702
IPS End of year performance bonus and special bonus			
Type of bonus			
End of year bonus	2007-08	1,253,045	3,674
Special bonus	2007-08	94,523	862
CRB Special Bonus			
Type of bonus			
Special bonus	2007-08	21,360	13

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to her Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222047]

Mr. Woolas: I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library. The list will incorporate organisations that supply works. A number of organisations supply works in addition to goods and services. To manually exclude works supply only organisations from the purchase order data would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222039]

Mr. Woolas: The following table lists Home Office spend on external public relations agencies accessed through the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework over the last three years:

	Agency	*Cost (£)*
2005-06	Band & Brown Communications	100,330.00
	Blue Rubicon Ltd.	40,000.00
	Fishburn Hedges	253,100.48
	Good Relations Ltd.	177,472.61
	Grayling UK Ltd.	94,036.02
	Harrison Cowley	340,971.07
	The Forster Company	473,514.93
	The Red Consultancy Ltd.	273,263.06
	Total	1,752,688.17
2006-07	Band & Brown Communications	29,186.20
	Blue Rubicon Ltd.	144,606.93
	Cutler Vick Communications	26,514.50
	Harrison Cowley	59,303.25
	The Forster Company	338,309.70
	The Red Consultancy Ltd.	258,490.61
	Total	856,411.19
2007-08	The Forster Company	290,583.74
	Total	290,583.74

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have been seconded to public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies in each of the last five years; [222210]

(2) how many staff from public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies were seconded to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [222211]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not collated or held centrally by the Home Office or its agencies, and, where available, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of domestic violence were recorded in each local authority area in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07, broken down by (i) sex and (ii) ethnicity of alleged offender. [226141]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information on the number of incidents of domestic violence in England and Wales but it is not possible to break the statistics down by local authority area.

Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overstayers are held in Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre; and for how long each has been detained. [221811]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* This statistical information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts (a) her Department and (b) its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221845]

Mr. Woolas: The *(a)* Home Department and, of *(b)* its agencies, the Identity and Passport Service have contracts with EDF Energy using the OGC Buying Solutions managed services framework for electricity supply.

The available information held by the (i) Home Department and (ii) the Identity and Passport Service on spend on electricity for each year since 2005-2006 is as follows:

£ million

	Home Office HQ	*Identity and Passport Service*
2005-06	2.79	0.32
2006-07	4.42	0.60
2007-08	4.68	0.71

Earlier data are not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost. The data include payments to London Electricity who have now been taken over by EDF. The figures exclude expenditure by the National Offender Management Service which became part of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007.

Entry Clearances

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which countries nationals are required to secure a visitor visa to visit the UK. [222957]

Mr. Woolas: At present, nationals of over 100 countries or territorial entities are visa nationals and require entry clearance (a visa) to enter the UK in any circumstances, including for a visit of up to six months. The countries are set out in the following list, Appendix 1 to the immigration rules.

Appendix 1: Visa requirements for the United Kingdom

1. Subject to paragraph 2 the following persons need a visa for the United Kingdom:

(a) Nationals or citizens of the following countries or territorial entities:

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Benin
Bhutan
Bosnia Herzegovina
Burkina Faso
Burma
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
People's Republic of China (except those referred to in sub-paragraphs 2(d) and (e) of this Appendix)
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Cuba
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Fiji
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Korea (North)
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Macedonia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Moldova
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan

Peru
Philippines
Qatar
Russia
Rwanda
Sao Tome e Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Surinam
Syria
Taiwan
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Vietnam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

The territories formerly comprising the socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

(b) Persons who hold passports or travel documents issued by the former Soviet Union or by the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

(c) Stateless persons.

(d) Persons who hold non-national documents.

2. The following persons do not need a visa for the United Kingdom:

(a) those who qualify for admission to the United Kingdom as returning residents in accordance with paragraph 18;

(b) those who seek leave to enter the United Kingdom within the period of their earlier leave and for the same purpose as that for which that leave was granted, unless it

(i) was for a period of six months or less; or

(ii) was extended by statutory instrument or by section 3C of the Immigration Act 1971 (inserted by section 3 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999);

(c) Deleted.

(d) those nationals or citizens of the People's Republic of China holding passports issued by Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; or

(e) those nationals or citizens of the People's Republic of China holding passports issued by Macao Special Administrative Region.

(f) those who arrive in the United Kingdom with leave to enter which is in force but which was given before arrival so long as those in question arrive within the period of their earlier leave and for the same purpose as that for which leave was granted, unless that leave

(i) was for a period of six months or less, or

(ii) was extended by statutory instrument or by section 3C of the Immigration Act 1971 (inserted by section 3 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999).

Entry Clearances: Biometrics

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many biometric visas have been issued to children under the age of 16 years, broken down by age. [226399]

Jacqui Smith: Up to 30 September 2008, a total of 178,230 biometric visas have been issued to children under the age of 16. A breakdown of this figure by age is not readily available from our records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the following table shows the total number of visa applications received from children under 16 who have provided their biometric data, broken down by age group, which I hope is helpful.

Visa applications from children under the age of 16 where biometric data provided: 1 January 2006 to 30 September 2008

Age	*Applications*
0-5	19,142
6-11	108,386
12-15	112,474
Total under 16	240,002

Notes:
1. Children under the age of five are not required to provide their biometric data. The figure for the 0 to five-year-old group therefore relates to five-year-olds only.
2. These figure are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of 16 years have been issued with biometric visas after supplying their fingerprints. [226408]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: The rollout of the biometric visas programme began on 1 January 2006 and was completed at the end of 2007. By 30 September 2008, a total of 178,230 children under the age of 16 years had been issued with visas after supplying their fingerprints.

Note:
This data is unpublished and should be treated as provisional

Source:
Central Reference System

Foreign Workers: Domestic Service

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 23-24WS, on consultation on visitors (Government report), if she will take steps to ensure that protections which apply to overseas domestic workers in private households are extended to domestic workers in diplomatic households. [222735]

Mr. Woolas: With the introduction of the points based system, all diplomatic missions wishing to employ domestic workers in their diplomatic households will need to seek a place on the UK Border Agency sponsor register. By signing up to the sponsor register, Missions will be agreeing to a number of criteria governing their employment of domestic workers. Private servants that work for foreign diplomats in the UK are protected from potential exploitation by UK law. We expect foreign diplomats to obey our laws and regulations and take seriously any alleged violation by those entitled to immunity. We would take appropriate action if any allegations of exploitation were to be brought to our attention.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1866W, on genetics: databases, what proportion of detected crimes in 2007-08 in which DNA evidence was available or played a part were crimes in which the offender had a prior conviction recorded on the Police National Computer. [227219]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of crimes detected in 2007-08 in which DNA was available, or played a part, and in which the offender had a prior conviction recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC), is not available from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) or from police force data collected by the Home Office on forensic activity and related detections. The NDNAD holds DNA profiles taken from persons arrested for a recordable offence but does not hold data on their criminal histories; this information is held on the PNC.

Homicide

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Harwich of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2670W, on homicide, when she plans to publish an honour-based violence action plan. [227429]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Association of Chief Police Officers will launch their honour based violence strategy for police forces shortly. A key part of the strategy will be the development of a two-year action plan.

In addition, the Government plan to publish their annual National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan. The plan will set out key actions and initiatives that will be taken forward to address domestic violence in the coming years. This will also include specific workstreams to address honour based violence.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made towards meeting the Government's deadline to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Human Trafficking by the end of 2008. [228409]

Mr. Woolas: Good progress has been made. We are on track to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Human Trafficking ("the Convention") by the end of the year. We have made the necessary legislative changes and a Command Paper and supporting documents were laid before Parliament on 7 October setting out the Government's plan.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether biometric information collected from foreign nationals in receipt of identity cards will be destroyed when the individual permanently leaves the UK; [226396]

(2) under what circumstances biometric information collected from foreign nationals applying for identity cards can be removed from Government records. [226397]

Jacqui Smith: Biometric data collected by the Secretary of State will be retained as long as retention of that data is necessary for the specified functions, for example functions under the Immigration Acts or for the prevention or detection of an offence. This applies even if the individual leaves the UK permanently; as it is difficult to anticipate whether a person may return to the UK on another occasion. It is essential to retain this information, for example, to identify those who may seek to abuse immigration control by seeking to return to the UK in a false identity and identify those who are entitled to be here.

The biometric data collected will be destroyed if it is no longer of use for those specified purposes. It will also be destroyed if the person proves that they are a British citizen or a Commonwealth citizen with a right of abode.

The exception to this is where the information is retained in accordance with, and for the purposes of, another enactment (that is, where Parliament has already approved retention of information for a particular purpose).

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why the age of six years has been stipulated as the age at which foreign national children must supply fingerprints when obtaining an identity card. [226407]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: The requirement for fingerprints to be taken from the age of six comes from EU Regulation 380/2008. The EU Commission agreed to set the minimum age at six years as this is the age at which fingerprints stabilise.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 958W, which police forces have not established an immigration crime partnership. [222430]

Mr. Woolas: Immigration crime partnerships are yet to be established with the following police forces/services:

Bedfordshire Police;
City of London Police;
Cumbria Constabulary;
Hertfordshire Constabulary;
Merseyside Police.

There are ongoing negotiations to establish ICP teams in all ACPO regions across the UK which will be made up of officers from forces within that region.

In Scotland Policing is a devolved matter. There is an agreement between UKBA Scotland and the Association of Chief Police Officers of Scotland to set up an ICP team for Scotland and arrangements are in place.

In Northern Ireland the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has not established an immigration crime partnership but there is an agreement that PSNI will tackle immigration crime and immigration related crime.

The agency sits on the Organised Crime Taskforce steering group.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal migrant workers were the subject of enforcement action *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in each quarter of the last three years; and how many have been deported or otherwise removed from the UK. [222337]

Mr. Woolas: The United Kingdom Border Agency's records details of enforcement operations and arrests going back as far as 2005. To link that data to subsequent enforcement action and successful removals could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Published information on removals is provided in the quarterly asylum statistics. The most recent figures can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylumq407.pdf.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers have been made the subject of *(a)* a civil penalty and *(b)* a criminal prosecution since the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 came into force; how many of those prosecuted have been convicted; and how many of the employees illegally employed in such cases have been removed from the UK, broken down by sector of the employers concerned. [222338]

Mr. Woolas: There have been 354 notices of liability issued to employers under the civil penalty regime since its introduction on 29 February 2008 until 12 July 2008.

Prosecution proceedings are live in a further 27 cases. And in four cases, these proceedings have been completed and have resulted in a fine for the employer. The data provided are management information. They may be subject to change and do not represent published national statistics.

The United Kingdom Border Agency does not hold data in the format requested on those encountered working illegally and that have been removed from the UK. Published information on removals is provided in the quarterly asylum statistics. The most recent figures can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylumq407.pdf

A copy is available in the House Library.

Immigration Controls

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Hitchen and Harpenden on 7 July 2008, *Official Report, column 1247W*, when and how she plans to consult on changes to the immigration rules on length of residence rights of access to a child. [222306]

Mr. Woolas: The green paper 'The Path to Citizenship' outlined our proposals to create a new clear framework for the journey to citizenship and clarify the routes to British Citizenship/permanent residence.

These proposals will affect all those who would otherwise have sought settlement under the Long Residence Rules or Rules on those seeking to exercise rights of access to a child.

We published the Government's response to the consultation on 14 July. We will not therefore consult further on these two areas but will continue to determine how these two categories will fit within the revised architecture.

Immigration Controls: Aviation

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that those travelling in *(a)* private helicopters and *(b)* very light jets or other private light aircraft do not evade immigration controls. [223052]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency, working closely with the police, pursues an intelligence-led and risk-based approach to immigration control for flights in the general aviation sector.

Operators or pilots of flights to the UK from abroad submit General Aviation Reports (GARs) which include passenger and crew data. This information is checked against watch lists to inform action by the police and local border offices. This includes meeting arrivals and also unannounced visits to provide information on activities at particular locations.

We will update the GAR system with a new reporting and checking system fully integrated into e-borders. In line with recommendations from the Cabinet Office Review, "Security in a Global Hub", we are examining other supplementary protective measures.

Immigration: Biometrics

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to examine and check the *(a)* fingerprints and *(b)* irises of (i) persons wishing to enter the UK at (A) an overseas post and (B) the UK border and (ii) persons who have entered the UK. [222705]

Mr. Woolas: The global rollout of the biometric visas programme was completed at the end of 2007. All visa applicants are now required to provide their biometric data (fingerprints and digital photographs) when making an application.

We have successfully concluded trials involving the use of biometrics to verify the identity of holders of UK biometric visas seeking entry to the UK. Plans are being progressed to introduce a scheme in 2009, which will enable the biometric verification of all arriving passengers who have recorded their biometrics with the UK Border Agency. Proposals are also being developed to meet the longer term objective of ensuring that by the end of 2011, all non-EEA nationals have a biometrically enabled, secure, unique identity before being admitted.

Arrangements are currently in place at 10 terminals across four UK airports to examine and check the iris patterns of people wishing to enter the UK.

There are currently no arrangements in place to examine or check the irises of people at overseas posts, or the irises of those who have already entered the UK.

From the 25 November 2008, foreign nationals applying for leave to remain in certain student categories or as spouses, civil partners or unmarried couples will be required to provide biometric features, including a facial image and 10 fingerprints. These will be checked against existing databases for matches. Successful applicants will be issued with an identity card for foreign nationals. This follows on from a pilot which started on the 28 April 2008.

Immigration: Fraud

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forged documents were confiscated at the UK's borders by *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* UK Visas in 2007-08. [227217]

Jacqui Smith: Due to the vigilance of UK Border Agency staff, between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008 a total of 3,338 fraudulent passports (or other identity documents used in lieu of passports) were detected by UK Border Agency officers at ports of entry. Of this total 1,696 documents were forged, the remainder being counterfeits, fraudulently obtained or being used by an individual seeking to impersonate the rightful holder.

Migration Impact Forum

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have submitted one or more briefing notes to the Migration Impact Forum since it was established. [227218]

Jacqui Smith: No individual police forces have submitted briefing notes to the Migration Impacts Forum. The forum has received a presentation on the impact of migration from a representative of the Association of Chief Police Officers that was informed by discussions with a number of police forces. A representative of ACPO sits on the forum.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were employed by the UK Border Agency dedicated specialist team to deal with foreign prisoners not considered for deportation in each month since March 2006; and what the operating costs of this team were in each such month. [227004]

Jacqui Smith: The specialist team dedicated to considering for deportation the 1,013 foreign criminals who were released without consideration for deportation prior to April 2006 form part of the wider Criminal Casework Directorate, which is in turn part of the UK Border Agency. Historical staffing numbers and operational costs are held for the Criminal Casework Directorate, but are not broken down to account for its constituent teams, due to the sharing of administrative and other supportive functions.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the number of security companies in the UK which are potentially subject to the regulation of the Security Industry Authority. [227740]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Exact figures for the number of security companies in the UK are not available. However, the Security Industry Authority estimates that there are in the region of 2,500.

Security companies are not currently required to be regulated by the Security Industry Authority.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average number of employees was of companies with Security Industry Authority approved contractor status in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* the latest date for which data are available; [227741]

(2) how many companies had approved contractor status removed by the Security Industry Authority in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008 to date; [227742]

(3) how many Security Industry Authority approved contractors there were on *(a)* 31 December 2006, *(b)* 31 December 2007 and *(c)* the latest date for which data are available. [227743]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The following data have been supplied by the Security Industry Authority.

227741

Based on information provided by companies in the course of annual re-registration with the SIA, the total number of staff working for companies with Security Industry Authority approved contractor status in the years in question were as follows:

	Number
31 December 2006	84,455
31 December 2007	101,656
15 October 2008	116,086

The average number of employees is not readily available.

22742

The number of companies which had approved contractor status withdrawn was as follows:

	Number
2006	1
2007	7
2008	6

22743

The number of companies on the SIA Register of Approved Contractors was as follows:

	Number
31 December 2006	317
31 December 2007	420
15 October 2008	552

Staffordshire Police: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ask the Chief Constable of Staffordshire Police to provide a substantive reply to the hon. Member for Walsall, North to his letter of 4 September concerning a constituent (reference: NH/JF); and if she will inquire into the reasons for the time taken to reply. [228601]

Mr. Coaker: Neither the Home Office nor its Ministers are able to comment on or intervene in individual matters. The Chief Officer is responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the force, not the Home Secretary. Matters relating to the investigation of a crime and the deployment of resources are the responsibility of the local Chief Officer. It is however understood that the hon. Member received a reply from the Chief Constable of Staffordshire Police on 20 October.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements her Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222181]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office is committed is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work. This provision includes an industry-standard Employee Assistance Programme which gives staff access to a professional advice and counselling service on any work-related or personal issues. We provide, on demand, critical incident de-briefing interventions for operational staff who have been involved in difficult or dangerous operational situations which may have caused either physical or emotional distress.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if she will make a statement. [227057]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office spend on taxis for financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07 is set out in the following table. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management and Ministerial Codes.

	£ million
2002-03	0.36
2003-04	0.43
2004-05	0.67
2005-06	0.80
2006-07	0.96

These figures include expenditure by the core Home Office and the UK Border Agency. The Identity and Passport Service figures are included from 2004-05 as 2002-03 and 2003-04 can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Figures for Criminal Records Bureau are excluded as these can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04, the figures also include expenditure by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) which transferred to Ministry of Justice in 2007. Their costs can be identified and deducted only at disproportionate cost.

The difference in costs over the period reflects the changing nature of the Home Office's business, in particular the growth of international terrorism and migration. Collaboration and information exchange both domestically and internationally on counter-terrorism activities and border control have become increasingly critical to the effective discharge of the Department's responsibilities for asylum, immigration and national security. This has involved higher levels of overseas and UK travel.

UK Border Agency: Dismissal

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials were dismissed from the UK Border Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last three years. [221862]

Mr. Woolas: Please find in the following table, the number of UK Border Agency staff dismissed over the last three financial years.

	Dismissals
2005-06	106
2006-07	102
2007-08	101

UK Border Agency: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the UK Border Agency's budget for 2008-09 is, broken down by *(a)* staff, *(b)* equipment, *(c)* buildings and *(d)* other categories for which information is held centrally. [227497]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the UK Borders Agency's budget broken down by spending category and includes *(a)* staff, *(b)* equipment and *(c)* buildings. In addition, the capital budget is provided and includes *(b)* equipment and *(c)* buildings:

UK Border Agency

Spending type	*2008-09 Budget (£000)*
Pay and allowances *(a)*	659,202
Travel subsistence	26,483
Training	9,435
Consultancies	20,209
Fees	39,094
Financial and office services	28,281
Equipment and vehicle maintenance *(b)*	4,995
Telecoms and IT services	136,848
Contracted out services	81,453
Other supplies and services	60,416
Accommodation and utilities *(c)*	106,916
Other current expenditure	783,042
Grants	54,790
Depreciation/cost of capital	66,911
Resource spend	2,078,076
IT Projects	145,900
Detention centres *(c)*	76,400
Estates *(c)*	4,000
plant, equipment, vehicles, etc *(b)*	11,700
Capital spend	238,000

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on *(a)* administrative and *(b)* operational matters in each of the last three years; and what its budget is on the same basis for 2008-09. [227498]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the UK Borders Agency's spend on *(a)* administrative and *(b)* operational matters (programme spend) in each of the last three years along with the budget for 2008-09 on the same basis. 2008-09 includes the costs UK Visas operation that is transferring from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office:

UK Border Agency

£

	Actual			
Spending type	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 budget*
(a) Administrative	156,100	134,621	108,316	108,730
(b) Operational (programme)	1,572,721	1,553,419	1,607,779	1,969,346
Total	1,728,820	1,688,041	1,716,095	2,078,076

Work Permits: Care Homes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people born outside the UK were *(a)* given work permits for and *(b)* employed in the care-related sector in each of the last 10 years. [222410]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not centrally recorded in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Written Questions: Government Responses

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question *(a)* (i) 203248, on counterfeit routers and (ii) 203249, on pilot schemes, tabled on 28 April 2008 and *(b)* 194334, on Ministerial taskforces and action groups, tabled on 11 March 2008. [222653]

Mr. Woolas: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm whether they hold information about malicious attacks against their IT systems. I refer the hon. Gentleman to Cabinet Office guidance.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Aimhigher Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the projected cost of Aimhigher is for 2008-09. [229042]

Mr. Lammy: Aimhigher is an important part of our policies to widen participation in higher education. Evidence from Excellence Challenge (a predecessor initiative which provided activities similar to those of Aimhigher) showed that, after just 18 months of the programme, it was having a significant effect on the aspirations of young people, and their attainment levels. The budget for Aimhigher for 2008-09 is £85.5 million, including contributions from the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Department of Health. £3 million is for the new Aimhigher Associates initiative, which links undergraduates with young people at school or college to help them through educational transitions and into university.

Our policies are succeeding: the proportion of UK domiciled, young, full-time, first degree entrants to English higher education institutions who were from lower socio-economic groups rose from 27.9 per cent. in 2002/03 to 29.8 per cent. in 2006/07.

Higher Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made in preparation of a White Paper on higher education; and if he will make a statement. [227755]

Mr. Lammy: We are currently hosting an ongoing debate on the future of higher education, with the aim of producing a framework document for the development of a world-class higher education system over the next 10 to 15 years.

We have recently received nine contributions from individuals and organisations involved in higher education. These will be published shortly. We have also commissioned seven 'users' of higher education, employers from the private and public sectors, to provide reports on what they will need from higher education in the years to come to ensure that the UK remains internationally competitive. These reports are due to be completed by the end of November and will be published shortly afterwards.

At the same time, an online debate is ongoing and all interested parties can participate. This is hosted by the Joint Information Systems Committee website at:

http://hedebate.jiscinvolve.org/

We intend to publish the framework document during 2009.

Intellectual Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made by the UK Intellectual Property Office in implementing a plan on intellectual property enforcement. [227176]

Mr. Lammy: Since the Patent Office (now the UK Intellectual Property Office (UK-IPO)) launched its IP Crime Strategy in 2004, it has become a key player in co-ordinating efforts to deal with intellectual property enforcement in the UK and internationally. The UK-IPO is taking forward its plans for IP enforcement as set out in Commitment 16 of "Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy" (published in February 2008). It is funding an enforcement pilot related to the 'Fake Free London' campaign. It is developing plans for a National Centre of Excellence on IP Crime. It is holding a consultation on penalties for copyright infringement (published 11 August, closes 31 October). The UK-IPO is also updating its IP Crime Strategy as the enforcement landscape has changed considerably in the past four years.

Skilled Workers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will initiate a national audit of skills. [227771]

Mr. Simon: The provision of up to date and high quality information on skills needs is crucial both to Government across the UK, and to employers. That is why we have asked the UK Commission for Employment and Skills to produce an annual employment and skills assessment. The UK Commission will also continue the series of skill projections, that was established by government some years ago. In addition each of the 25 Sector Skills Councils has completed a Sector Skills Agreement, which map out exactly what skills employers need their work force to have and how these skills will be supplied.

Small Businesses: Research

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to assist small businesses in undertaking research. [227371]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The Government have taken a number of steps to assist small businesses undertaking research:

> From 1 August 2008 the rate of tax relief under the SME R and D tax credits has increased from 150 per cent. to 175 per cent. The employment threshold has also risen from 249 to 449 employees. It is estimated that SMEs will benefit from an additional £80 million as a result;
>
> SBRI is being reformed to deliver technologies to meet the future needs and requirements of Government and other public bodies ahead of commercial procurement, and in doing so, to drive an increase in demand for R and D services. In early-stage, high-technology businesses, supporting them through a critical stage in their development. SBRI is unique in providing 100 per cent. funding of development costs at the crucial stage of prototyping and demonstration, and it is this which makes it potentially valuable for early-stage technology businesses;
>
> Between January and June 2008, 70 small businesses benefited from £5 million of research grants through DIUS's Grant for Research and Development scheme; and,
>
> DIUS is working with the Technology Strategy Board and regional development agencies to: double the number of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships over the next three years; to introduce a pilot innovation voucher scheme to help 500 smaller businesses collaborate with knowledge institutions; and, to help UK businesses participate in the Eurostars scheme for research performing SMEs.

TRANSPORT

Driving Instructors

7. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals for legislation to prevent convicted sex offenders from becoming driving instructors. [228331]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Current legislation includes a requirement for an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) to be a "fit and proper" person. Since March 2007, those seeking to qualify as ADIs have been required to provide enhanced level criminal record checks to ensure that those allowed on to the ADI Register meet this condition.

The Driving Standards Agency and Department for Transport continue to look for an early legislative opportunity to introduce powers to suspend Approved Driving Instructors.

Rail Network

8. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the extent of the rail network infrastructure in 2038. [228332]

Mr. Hoon: No direct estimate has been made of the extent of the rail network infrastructure in 2038. The Government's long term vision for the rail network is set out in the 2007 White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway".

Railway Stations

9. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department plans to spend on *(a)* new railway stations in England and *(b)* a new railway station in Bromsgrove over the next three years. [228333]

Paul Clark: The planning and investment in new stations is largely a matter for Network Rail. However, the Government have invested in existing stations including the rebuilding of Birmingham New Street and Reading Stations and the provision of £150 million through the National Stations Improvement Programme.

The proposed new station at Bromsgrove is subject to consideration by the region on funding priorities.

England and Scotland Rail Links

10. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for high speed rail links between England and Scotland. [228334]

Paul Clark: The Government are looking at the need for additional transport capacity as part of the new approach to planning set out in the October 2007 document Towards a Sustainable Transport System. While Network Rail are reviewing the case for new lines as one option, increased capacity and enhancements to the existing network are equally important as shown by the £8.8 billion investment on upgrading the West Coast Main Line, leading to reduced travel times.

12. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for high speed rail links between England and Scotland. [228336]

Paul Clark: The Government are looking at the need for additional transport capacity as part of the new approach to planning set out in the October 2007 document 'Towards a Sustainable Transport System'. While Network Rail are reviewing the case for new lines as one option, increased capacity and enhancements to the existing network are equally important as shown by the £8.8 billion investment on upgrading the West Coast Main Line, leading to reduced travel times.

Manchester Airport

11. **Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the development of Manchester airport as a hub; and if he will make a statement. [228335]

Paul Clark: Northern Way has begun work to identify the benefits to the regional economy from investment in the rail network around Manchester. This will feed into the study being conducted by Network Rail into the options for investment, due to be completed in summer 2009.

Seafarers' Pay

13. **Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has held with trades unions and HM Treasury on the Seafarers' Earnings Deduction. [228337]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has had informal discussion with Nautilus UK and HM Revenue and Customs, following the Special Commissioner's decision in the 'Pride of South America' case. Although there have not been any discussions with HM Treasury, I understand that my right hon. Friend, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, is aware of the concerns raised by this decision and that HM Revenue and Customs will work closely with stakeholders on the interpretation of the Commissioner's decision to ensure that it is implemented in a fair and practical manner.

Halifax and London Rail Link

14. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in providing a direct rail link between Halifax and London. [228338]

Paul Clark: The independent Office of Rail Regulation is considering access applications from a number of train operators for new services on the heavily-trafficked East Coast Main Line from December 2009, including possible services through Halifax.

Railways: Overcrowding

15. **Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to reduce overcrowding on the rail network; and if he will make a statement. [228339]

Paul Clark: The Rail White Paper, which we published in July 2007, described the forecast growth in rail usage and sets out the enhancements in capacity, reliability and safety the Government seek. At the heart of our plans is the £10 billion that we have committed to spend on enhancing rail capacity between 2009 and 2014.

18. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to reduce overcrowding on the rail network; and if he will make a statement. [228342]

Paul Clark: The Rail White Paper, which we published in July 2007, described the forecast growth in rail usage and sets out the enhancements in capacity, reliability and safety the Government seek. At the heart of our plans is the £10 billion that we have committed to spend on enhancing rail capacity between 2009 and 2014.

A12

16. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects work to start on a junction between the A12 and the Northern Approach Road at Colchester. [228340]

Paul Clark: Delivery of the junction is tied to planning consent and is a matter for developers to take forward in line with plans for delivery of proposed housing, employment and leisure facilities in north Colchester.

Both English Partnerships and the Highways Agency are working in partnership to ensure an early start can be made, once developer funding is made available. Essex county council, along with other authorities have been allocated indicative funding for infrastructure provision through the Community Infrastructure Fund. Announcements on successful bids will be made next spring. Subject to the successful completion of the necessary statutory procedures, this could enable construction of the junction to be brought forward to the end of 2009 with completion by March 2011.

West Yorkshire: Transport Funding

17. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to fund transport links in West Yorkshire. [228341]

Paul Clark: West Yorkshire will benefit from a wide ranging programme of investment in local and regional transport, funded through local transport plans and the regional funding allocation process, as well as investment in the national road and rail network.

Mobility Scooters

19. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to revise the law on mobility scooters. [228343]

Paul Clark: The Department has no immediate plans to bring forward legislation on mobility scooters.

Motorcycle Driving Test

20. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the introduction of the new motorcycle driving test; and if he will make a statement. [228344]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has designed a new practical motorcycling test to accommodate the improved test and new European requirements. The Agency has developed 38 multi-purpose test centres from which the new test could be delivered and has trained its examiner staff to conduct the new test.

However, in response to concerns raised by the motorcycle training industry about the number of test venues available and the distance that some test candidates would have to travel, the introduction of the new motorcycling test has been deferred until the end of March 2009.

In partnership with motorcycling stakeholder groups DSA is currently developing further proposals for delivery of the test and hopes shortly to be in a position to consult widely on them.

Bridges: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bridges have been strengthened in England and Wales since 2000. [227085]

Paul Clark: On motorways and trunk roads for which the Highways Agency are responsible, 210 bridges have been strengthened since 2000.

The management of the local road network in England, including maintenance of its bridges, is the responsibility of local highway authorities.

The Department for Transport provides funding to English local authorities, outside London, for highway maintenance, which they may decide to use for bridge strengthening, through their Local Transport Plan settlement capital allocations and through specific funding for maintenance for structures, including bridge strengthening, on the Primary Route Network (PRN). Funding in London is a matter for the mayor.

The numbers of structures funded under the PRN programme from 2005-06 inclusive of forward allocation to 2010-11 are:

	Number
2005-06	127
2006-07	123
2007-08	115

A three year allocation was provided for 2008-09 to 2010-11. The number of structures funded for this period is 355.

Prior to 2005-06 the information is not available to this level of detail.

The strengthening of bridges owned by other bodies, such as Network Rail, is a matter for the respective bridge owners. Bridges in Wales are a matter for the Welsh Assembly.

Bus Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new public buses have been introduced in the last five years. [225607]

Paul Clark: The numbers (to the nearest thousand) of buses and coaches[1] newly registered in the public service vehicle taxation class[2] in the last five years were as follows:

[1] Figures for buses and coaches are not available separately.

[2] The figures relate only to those buses and coaches taxed in the public service vehicle taxation class when first registered. Buses and coaches initially registered for private use and subsequently brought into public service are therefore excluded from the figures in the table, while vehicles taken into private use subsequent to registration will be included in the statistics.

	Number (thousand)
2003	8,400
2004	8,300
2005	8,900
2006	7,600
2007	9,000

Bus Services: Concessions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to change the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [226745]

Paul Clark: This Government introduced the statutory minimum bus concession in 2001 and subsequently improved the original half-fare minimum to free local travel in 2006. The successful introduction of the England-wide concessionary travel in April this year was a major achievement, but it represented a further significant change for both local authorities and the bus industry. As such, our current focus is very much on ensuring the continued success of the new concession.

We are currently considering possible improvements to the administration of concessionary travel and are likely to consult on some possible changes later in the year.

In July this year it was announced that by 1 April 2011, the statutory bus concession in England will be extended to include service personnel and veterans under the age of 60, who were seriously injured in service and are resident in England. Aside from this there are no further plans at present to extend the statutory minimum to different times, other modes, community transport or additional groups of people.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost to local authorities of the national concessionary bus fares scheme is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what the estimated central government funding for the scheme is for each of those years. [226746]

Paul Clark: Most of the funding for concessionary travel is part of a block within the Revenue Support Grant (RSG), so it is not possible to disaggregate information for concessionary fares. The latest available figures show that local authorities spent, in total, £735.2 million on concessionary travel in 2006-07. We would expect a slightly higher figure for 2007-08 and a more significant increase for 2008-09 with the advent of all-England travel but it is too early to fully establish the impact of the new concession.

The Government are paying a special grant directly to Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) to meet the extra cost of the England-wide bus concession from 1 April 2008. Unlike RSG funding this is identifiable at £212 million in 2008-09, rising to £217m in 2009-10. The new funding is in addition to existing concessionary fares funding through RSG. The Government remain confident that funding for statutory concessionary fares is sufficient to meet the cost to TCAs.

Buses: Fuels

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on developing alternative fuels for buses. [225621]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not spent anything developing alternative fuels specifically for buses. The Government support the research and development of alternative fuel technologies for diesel engine vehicles which could be used for buses. More than £90 million has been committed in this area over the next five years.

Bypasses: Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bypasses have been built in south east Manchester since 2000. [227089]

Paul Clark: Final funding approval was granted to the A34 Alderley Edge and Nether Alderley bypass scheme earlier this year on which advanced works have started.

The South East Manchester Multi Modal Study (SEMMMS) relief road falls within the relevant area, but discussions are still continuing on this scheme.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226805]

Mr. Hoon: The figures in the following table have been sourced from the Central Department and its agencies and show expenditure on recruitment consultancies and external advertising combined. These figures could not be split due to reporting variances across the Department.

	Expenditure (£)
2003-04	4,021,132
2004-05	4,220,768
2005-06	8,272,596
2006-07	4,791,412
2007-08	5,610,731

The larger figure in 2005-06 represents a major campaign by the Highways Agency to recruit Traffic Officers.

The table showing Recruitment Consultancies used has been placed in the Libraries of the House. This represents recruitment consultancies used throughout the past five financial years however, some agencies could provide these data only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of written Questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226889]

Mr. Hoon: In the current session the Department has received 880 named day parliamentary questions. Of these 532 (60.45 per cent.) were answered on the due date.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report,* columns 888-89W, on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, what progress the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency has made with the review; and if he will make a statement. [226730]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I can confirm that the review of the effectiveness of the new measures introduced following the 2006 consultation has been completed. The report is currently being finalised and will be available shortly.

Driving: Licenses

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers have lost their licences under the six-point novice driver rule since it was introduced; and how many of these have *(a)* subsequently retaken their test and (i) passed and (ii) failed it and *(b)* been prosecuted for driving without a licence. [226748]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995 came into force in 1997. To September 2008, 160,756 driving licences have been revoked under the provisions of the Act; 87,250 drivers have subsequently passed a driving test to regain their full licence.

Information is not held on the number of drivers who have failed a test following revocation. Statistics on driving offences, held by the Ministry of Justice, do not specify the individual circumstances of prosecutions for

> "driving other than in accordance with a licence".

Driving: Licensing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the number of people driving on UK roads without *(a)* insurance, *(b)* a valid MOT certificate and *(c)* a valid provisional or full driving licence. [227076]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our latest estimate (2005) for uninsured driving is based on a comparison of the vehicle register, maintained by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

(DVLA) and the motor insurance database. The estimate is about 2.1 million licensed vehicles (about 6.5 per cent. of the UK total) are being driven by uninsured drivers. Measures introduced to tackle uninsured driving include police powers to seize vehicles used on the road uninsured, and improved police powers to access information contained in the insurance industry's database. The Road Safety Act 2006 introduced a new offence of being a registered keeper for which there is no valid motor insurance. Further regulations are required to bring the provisions into force and the detail of this scheme for continuous insurance enforcement will be subject to consultation later this year.

The most recent results of the "on the road" compliance survey, published in 2006, showed that around 4.2 per cent. of vehicles in use on the road did not have a valid MoT. When applied to the whole vehicle fleet this would amount to around 1.2 million vehicles. The exercise was repeated this year but the results are not yet available. To improve compliance with these requirements the police have access to the computerised record of MoT test results so that officers can identify vehicles without a valid MoT, when using for example ANPR cameras, and then take action. The 'newstyle' MoT certificates come with a peel off and display sticker setting out the MoT expiry date as an aid to motorists.

The most recent estimate of the number of drivers using a vehicle on the road without a valid driving licence is 1.6 per cent. Full details are available in the report on the National Driver and Vehicle Compliance Check 2006. The report was published on 8 September 2006, and placed in the House of Commons Library. It is also available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/vehicles/roadspolicingoperationv79.

Provision to the Police of 24 hour access to accurate and up to date driver licensing information (including a photograph where appropriate) at the roadside has assisted detection and enforcement. There are also good IT links between the DVLA and the courts to assist in effective prosecution of offenders.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people passed advanced driving tests in each region of England and Wales in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* 2008 to date. [227153]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Advanced driving assessments are offered on a voluntary basis by some private organisations.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) does not collect statistics on how many drivers have undertaken or passed such assessments.

Lorries: Safety Measures

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and *(b)* the European Commission in the last 12 months on rules to require retro-reflective tape to be placed on the side of heavy goods vehicles around the outer edge to aid night time visibility. [227134]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following European and wider negotiations undertaken some time ago, we agreed to introduce new retro-reflective markings requirements for new trucks exceeding 7.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight (GVW) and new trailers exceeding 3.5 tonnes GVW by 10 October 2009. Our research shows that marking these vehicle types is the most cost effective approach. Implementation will be via our national lighting regulations and no further discussions with UN-ECE and European counterparts are planned.

Official Cars: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what opportunities are provided to Ministers to use UK-built cars that comply with carbon dioxide emission guidelines. [224615]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 427W.

The Government remain committed to reducing the average emissions of the Government fleet to 130g/km by 2010. The range of vehicles commercially available which produce low carbon emissions is increasing and a number of new or improved models are expected to be released over the next year. GCDA is therefore reviewing the low carbon vehicles which may be suitable for use by Ministers as remaining older cars are replaced.

Railways: Contracts

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which train operators have made late premia payments in the last 12 months. [227128]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* In the last 12 months, the following train operators have made payments which were not received in the Department for Transport's bank on the correct day:

National Express (Gatwick Express Franchise)—three instances of late receipt of payments (13 working days, one working day and 10 working days late). This franchise ended in June 2008.

Midland Mainline—one instance of late receipt (one working day late).

Arriva Trains Wales—one instance of late receipt (one working day late).

First Capital Connect—one instance of late receipt (four working days late).

For those payments where funds were received one working day late it is possible that this was due to deadlines at the Office of the Paymaster General that may have meant the funds were not shown in the Department's account on the same day as receipt.

The late receipt of payment made by First Capital Connect was the result of an error on the bank sort code that meant that the initial payment made on the correct date was rejected. This payment was immediately resubmitted.

Road Traffic: Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost to the economy is of projected road congestion increase of *(a)* eight per cent. by 2010, *(b)* 22 per cent. by 2015 and *(c)* 28 per cent. by 2025. [226695]

Paul Clark: The congestion costs associated with these particular projections have not been estimated.

However, previous work using the Department's National Transport Model for the Eddington Study (2006) did provide relevant analysis. The study estimates that for a 30 per cent. increase in congestion between 2003-25 in England, the time lost to all road users would be worth £24 billion at 2002 prices.

The full study is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/eddingtonstudy/

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the baseline average is for the number killed or seriously injured by traffic collisions from 1994 to 1998 against which his Department assesses its progress on reducing the number killed or seriously injured on the roads. [227098]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 1994-98 baseline average for the number of killed or seriously injured casualties resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain is 47,656.

These data are available in table 1b of article 1 in 'Road Casualties Great Britain' at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/221412/221549/227755/rcgb2007.pdf.

Copies of this publication have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Police

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many police officers were engaged in patrolling roads to enforce traffic rules in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [227105]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The available data are given in the table.

Table 1: Police officers FTE[1] whose main function is 'Traffic' (1998-99 to 2007-08)[2] by police force[3]

	1998-99[4]	1999-2000[4, 5]	2000-01[4, 5]	2001-02[4, 5]	2002-03[6]	2003-04[6]	2004-05[6]	2005-06[6]	2006-07[6]	2007-08[6]
Avon and Somerset	207	200	211	214	216	222	228	215	148	160
Bedfordshire	79	73	69	69	75	80	80	81	68	65
Cambridgeshire	96	93	86	78	85	99	101	99	96	90
Cheshire	205	196	187	194	194	200	194	85	91	94
City of London	24	22	24	25	24	24	28	24	23	26
Cleveland	67	68	63	67	64	73	2	61	72	104
Cumbria	117	119	111	108	107	110	108	111	114	99
Derbyshire	147	139	136	140	107	121	116	119	110	109
Devon and Cornwall	212	215	202	187	192	198	211	215	225	232
Dorset	77	83	86	81	91	86	82	81	80	78
Durham	117	116	113	113	111	119	108	105	100	107
Dyfed-Powys	97	93	83	75	136	105	141	143	136	126
Essex	259	245	249	254	241	242	243	243	231	219
Gloucestershire	82	68	69	64	62	66	67	73	67	67
Greater Manchester	434	433	423	421	406	392	359	342	352	338
Gwent	88	90	89	87	93	95	96	102	95	57
Hampshire	278	251	240	240	248	246	244	240	237	214
Hertfordshire	158	155	168	149	150	151	149	149	145	152
Humberside	149	155	145	136	123	119	225	181	100	104
Kent[7]	119	103	104	104	104		122	116	109	122
Lancashire	225	220	217	220	198	187	190	197	184	180
Leicestershire[7]	86	87	95	—	92	95	85	77	72	74
Lincolnshire	95	93	88	98	90	89	96	102	100	92
Merseyside	200	185	130	126	125	119	115	138	150	152
Metropolitan Police[7]	782	824	686	—	583	592	1,029	603	611	612
Norfolk	107	109	113	114	120	121	107	112	110	118
North Wales	236	134	146	152	115	114	76	81	98	90
North Yorkshire	128	96	129	140	151	138	101	97	99	105
Northamptonshire	87	52	52	61	70	71	65	63	63	60
Northumbria	162	158	158	178	245	253	165	167	172	165
Nottinghamshire	182	167	175	111	26	121	133	134	139	144
South Wales	220	224	238	244	243	245	243	243	252	233
South Yorkshire	197	196	206	208	180	127	134	141	143	144
Staffordshire	208	188	35	34	50	49	58	28	35	34
Suffolk	74	70	63	68	68	72	76	80	77	81
Surrey	177	173	197	110	108	110	107	99	87	98
Sussex	197	191	190	174	164	163	163	160	169	160
Thames Valley	265	251	251	247	259	259	245	236	237	250
Warwickshire	106	102	96	95	103	103	93	97	93	93
West Mercia	238	278	322	325	292	115	117	116	129	128
West Midlands	405	394	380	385	384	405	393	401	383	352
West Yorkshire	331	323	326	336	320	314	317	343	324	283

Table 1: Police officers FTE[1] whose main function is 'Traffic' (1998-99 to 2007-08)[2] by police force[3]

	1998-99[4]	1999-2000[4, 5]	2000-01[4, 5]	2001-02[4, 5]	2002-03[6]	2003-04[6]	2004-05[6]	2005-06[6]	2006-07[6]	2007-08[6]
Wiltshire	90	93	91	88	91	96	93	13	89	91
England and Wales	7,806	7,522	7,238	6,317	6,902	6,706	7,104	6,511	6,412	6,299

[1] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Data as at 31 March in each of the given years.

[3] Variations in the proportion of police officers deployed to traffic duties to some extent reflects the presence of motorways and key A roads in certain force areas.

[4] Data collected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) for the number of officers who are deployed to all traffic duties. It is not possible to segregate officers on speed enforcement duties from other officers deployed to traffic duties. The table therefore provides data for all officers deployed to traffic duties.

[5] The basis on which HMIC classify police service staff changed in the year 1999-2000 so the figures for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are not directly comparable with those for earlier years. Some officers counted as deployed to traffic duties in earlier years may, from 1999-2000 onward, have been recorded as deployed to duties relating to traffic wardens.

[6] Data collected by Home Office and not by HMIC. Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. This does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.

[7] Data unavailable for in all given years.

Table 2: Police officers FTE whose main function is 'Traffic'[1] (1998-99 to 2007-08) by region[2]

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North east	346	342	334	358	419	445	275	333	344	376
North west	1,180	1,153	1,068	1,068	1,030	1,008	966	873	890	862
Yorkshire and the Humber	804	770	807	821	775	698	776	762	666	636
East Midlands	596	537	545	410	385	497	495	494	483	477
West Midlands	957	962	833	839	829	672	661	642	640	606
Eastern	773	745	747	731	739	765	756	763	726	725
London	806	846	710	25	607	616	1,057	627	634	638
South east	1,035	969	981	874	882	778	881	852	839	844
South west	667	659	658	633	650	668	681	596	610	628
Wales	641	541	556	558	587	559	556	569	580	506
England and Wales	7,806	7,522	7,238	6,317	6,902	6,706	7,104	6,511	6,412	6,299

[1] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] All data compiled from table 1.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fixed speed cameras are being used to enforce 20 mph speed limits. [227068]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held by the Department. Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships.

Threats Contingencies and Operations Support Division

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the remit is of the Threats, Contingencies and Operations Support Division within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [227796]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: The remit of the Threats, Contingencies and Operations Support Division of the Transport Security and Contingencies Directorate (TRANSEC) in the Department covers a range of cross, cutting policy and strategy issues. These include

liaison with the United Kingdom counter terrorism intelligence community;

civil contingencies and exercises;

co-ordination of Olympic transport security policy;

research, analysis and development;

personnel security in relation to transport; and

co-ordination of the Department's contribution to the CONTEST national counter terrorism strategy.

Its work has been described in successive TRANSEC annual reports published oh the Department for Transport website.

Transport: Greater London

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector funding was put into (i) London transport and (ii) non-London local transport in each of the last 10 years. [227115]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following figures show local authority expenditure (current and capital) on public transport. (The data are taken from Local Government Finance Statistics on the CLG website:

£ million

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
London	1,354	2,623	2,697	3,191	3,398
Non-London	4,546	4,424	4,882	5,110	5395

For 2002-03, there was additional central Government support for London Underground of £772 million.

Data for earlier years (pre 2002-03) were not collated in a format consistent with later years and are therefore not provided. Figures for 2007-8 are currently unavailable.

In respect of the private sector, information is not available as this covers areas such as developer contributions (e.g. under section 106 agreements), and investment by the private sector under public private partnerships. This information is not collated centrally.

The Department does manage the award of PFI credits to schemes which are classified as private sector investment. The following figures show total PFI credits for London and non-London schemes for the years 2002-03 to 2007-08.

£ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
London	0	12	0	70	24	0
English local authorities (excluding London)	0	181	121	32	126	92

XL Leisure Group

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps his Department is taking with the travel industry following the collapse of XL Leisure Group to ensure that consumers are covered in the event of future airline company failures; [228018]

(2) if he will consider representations from the Association of British Travel Agents to introduce a universal consumer protection scheme for air travellers. [228023]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The Government are keen to learn the lessons of XL's failure and over the coming weeks officials and Ministers will be discussing a range of issues arising with stakeholders with a view to improving the experience of passengers in future airline or tour operator failures. As part of this process I shall be happy to meet with ABTA to hear their views.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

University Entrants

6. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the proportion of university entrants of each sex. [228320]

Maria Eagle: I have not yet had any discussions on the proportion of university entrants of each sex.

Trafficked Women

7. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what arrangements are in place to provide a recovery and reflection period for women who are found to have been trafficked into the UK. [228321]

Maria Eagle: In addition to the normal asylum and humanitarian routes, victims of trafficking are provided with a 30-day reflection period and extended stay and support is available if they co-operate with a criminal investigation. The Government have committed to ratify the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings by the end of the year. This will see the introduction of a 45-day minimum recovery and reflection period for all identified victims and temporary one-year renewable residence permits in certain circumstances.

Prostitution

8. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans the Government has to reduce demand for prostitution. [228322]

Maria Eagle: Following a six month review into tackling the demand for prostitution, the Home Secretary recently announced the intention to outlaw paying for sex with someone controlled for another person's gain. Also announced was a crackdown on kerb-crawlers which will ensure that kerb-crawlers can be prosecuted on a first offence, and new powers to close premises associated with prostitution which will allow police to close exploitative brothels for a period of three months.

Women Entrepreneurs

9. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans she has to increase the number of women entrepreneurs. [228323]

Maria Eagle: We published our Enterprise Strategy in March this year. It sets out the Government's plans to encourage women to start-up and grow their own businesses, including:

Setting up a fund providing equity for women led businesses;

Piloting Women's Business Centres;

Supporting a national mentoring network for women in business;

Supporting the establishment of a women's enterprise centre of expertise;

Running a media campaign to raise awareness of enterprise among women.

The Government Equalities Office is working closely with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to support the delivery of these measures.

Women are the largest under represented group in terms of participation in enterprise and offer a wealth of untapped talent and economic opportunity.

Measures to assist women's enterprise are an important part of the Government's Enterprise Strategy, including piloting Women's Business Centres, creating a fund to invest in women-led businesses, and supporting the establishment of a Women's Business Centre of Expertise.

The Enterprise Strategy, published in March this year, recognises the importance of changing women's attitudes to enterprise; providing advice and support to women starting and running their businesses; and helping women entrepreneurs to achieve growth in their businesses.

The Government Equalities Office is, jointly with BERR, supporting research into the barriers faced by mothers thinking about setting up their own business. This research will feed in to the development of Women's Business Centre pilots.

The Government published a Strategic Framework for Women's Enterprise in 2003. This set out for the first time the policy imperative for the development of women's enterprise.

The Government established the Task Force on Women's Enterprise to accelerate the levels of female entrepreneurship. It is also supporting the national network of 1,000 women entrepreneur ambassadors established with RDAs.

Equality Bill

10. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she is taking to consult young people on the provisions of the Equality Bill. [228324]

Maria Eagle: The consultation on the proposals for the Equality Bill included a children's consultation event organised on our behalf by the Children's Rights Alliance for England. Barbara Follett also met a small group of children and young people to discuss the impact the Equality Bill proposals may have on children and young people. Organisations representing children responded to the consultation paper and have also been invited to the regional stakeholder events on the Equality Bill which will take place during the next few months.

Departmental Finance

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much funding the Government Equalities Office is to receive in 2008-09. [225045]

Maria Eagle: For 2008-09, the Government Equalities Office will receive £77 million of resource funding and £7 million capital funding. Of this funding, £63 million resource and £7 million capital is allocated to the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day she has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226814]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has replied to a total of 39 named day questions in the current parliamentary session, of which nine (23 per cent.) had substantive replies on the named day and 30 (77 per cent.) received holding replies.

Domestic Violence Prosecutions

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many prosecutions for domestic violence against women failed to come to court because the victim refused to give evidence in the latest period for which figures are available. [227213]

Maria Eagle: The Government do not hold figures for the number of prosecutions for domestic violence against women or other crimes which failed to come to court because the victim refused to give evidence.

Crown Prosecution Service records include an analysis of the reasons for unsuccessful court outcomes, including an indication of those cases dropped before a hearing because the victim refused to give evidence or retracted. In 2007-08, 3,829 cases were dropped for this reason, representing 19.3 per cent. of all unsuccessful outcomes for domestic violence, and 6 per cent. of all completed cases of domestic violence. However, these figures are not broken down by gender.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she plans to take to increase resources to regions where women who have undergone domestic violence are significantly underserved according to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's survey Mapping the Gaps. [226140]

Maria Eagle: The responsibility for decisions about local level funding priorities, including the provision of specialist support to women who have been affected by domestic violence, rests with local authorities.

The Supporting People programme provides the main source of public funding for housing-related support. This programme is delivered at a local level and decisions on how much money is spent on services for those affected by domestic violence are made by the top tier local authorities, based on a local needs assessment. The 2008-09 allocations for Supporting People amount to £1.686 billion. The top tier authorities spent £59,333,258 on services for those affected by domestic violence in 2005-06, and £61,645,319 in 2006-07.

The Government Equalities Office will continue to work in partnership with the Women's National Commission, the Equalities and Human Rights Commission and other Government Departments to keep a close watch on how local areas prioritise funding for domestic violence services.

Equality

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office will spend on the Single Equality Bill seminar being hosted on 10th December 2008 in conjunction with Whitehall and Westminster World. [225163]

Maria Eagle *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The Government Equalities Office is not making any contribution towards the cost of the Single Equality Bill seminar organised by Whitehall and Westminster World on 10 December 2008.

Gender: Discrimination

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government have taken to act upon the recommendations of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women since the 41st session of parties of 30 June to 18 July. [224211]

Barbara Follett: I will let the right hon. Member have such information as is available as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Maria Eagle to Theresa May:

The United Kingdom was examined on its 5th and 6th reports to the United Nations committee and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women on July 10th this year. Following this examination the committee published a set of draft observations which welcomed the UK's adoption of a number of legislative, judicial and administrative measures aimed at promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination. Among these were the 2006 Equality Act; The establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Gender Equality Duty for all public authorities.

The Government Equalities Office is currently drafting an Action Plan to take forward the recommendations made in the draft report. A particular focus of which is to strengthen relations with other Government Departments and the Devolved Nations, in order to act on women's equality issues. The Government will provide a future progress report to the United Nations next year.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce sexism in the workplace. [226334]

Maria Eagle *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 October.

Women: Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress the Government Equalities Office has made in *(a)* developing and *(b)* implementing a cross-Government strategy on violence against women. [223006]

Maria Eagle: Tackling violence against women is one of the priorities for the Ministers for Women, and my Department has published a report, "Tackling Violence Against Women: A Cross-Government Narrative", which sets out the significant progress made by Government on this and the other priorities for the Ministers for Women. This report is available in the Commons Library.

The Government continue to look at how we can strengthen and develop our approaches and the Home Secretary will be announcing plans on how this will be taken forward shortly. My Department, the Government Equalities Office, will be working with and supporting the Home Office in this.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps her Department has taken to tackle violence against women. [223007]

Maria Eagle: In July, the Government Equalities Office has more recently published "Women's Changing Lives: Priorities for the Ministers for Women One Year On Progress Report" which details the significant progress made by Government on this and the other priorities for the Ministers for Women. It highlights a number of steps taken, including specifically by my Department. For example:

Creation of a cross-government emergency fund of £1 million to support rape crisis centres; and

Hosted a meeting for Ministers, including myself, with members of the newspaper and advertising industry to raise concerns about small adverts in newspapers—guidance for editors has since been tightened up.

This and the earlier report, "Tackling Violence Against Women: a Cross-Government Narrative", are both available in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government Equalities Office has a strategic and influencing role within Government on equalities issues, including tackling violence against women. We work in partnership with other Government Departments, including the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and the Attorney-General's Office on this issue. As deputy Minister for Women and Equality, I sit on the interdepartmental ministerial groups on domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking to which progress on tackling these horrible crimes is reported.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228739]

Kevin Brennan: Details of how much the Cabinet Office spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants in the last 12 months are not held centrally and are therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Economic and Domestic Secretariat

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff are employed in the Economic and Domestic Secretariat on a *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount basis. [229050]

Kevin Brennan: As at the end of September 2008, 34 people were employed in the Economic and Domestic Affairs Secretariat of the Cabinet Office. This equates to 33.8 full-time equivalents.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what change there was in the number of people of working age in employment who were *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* non-UK citizens, *(c)* UK born and *(d)* non-UK born in the period (i) 1987 to 1997 and (ii) since 1997, expressed (A) as a proportion of those of working age in employment and (B) as a proportion of the total change in employment level in the same periods. [228444]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what change there was in the number of people of working age in employment who were (a) UK citizens, (b) non-UK citizens, (c) UK born and (d) non-UK born in the period (i) 1987 to 1997 and (ii) since 1997, expressed (A) as a proportion of those of working age in employment and (B) as a proportion of the total change in employment level in the same periods. (228444)

The requested information for the period April-June 1997 to April-June 2008 is shown in the attached table. Comparable data for the period 1987 to 1997 are not available.

Citizenship is defined as the nationality reported by respondents at the time of the survey.

7

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Working age[1] people in employment by nationality and country of birth—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	UK Nationals	Non UK Nationals	UK born	Non UK born	Total[2]
April to June 1997 (thousand)	24,686	943	23,710	1,919	25,631
April to June 2008[3] (thousand)	*25,882	*2,266	*24,532	*3,617	*28,152
Change (thousand)	1,196	1,322	822	1,698	2,521
(A): Change as percentage of 2007 level	5	140	3	88	10
(B): Change as percentage of total change	47	52	33	67	100

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Total includes those whose nationality and country of birth is not known.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, described as follows:

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

Coefficient of Statistical Robustness Variation (CV) (percentage)

* 0 ≤ CV ≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 ≤ CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 ≤ CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Unemployment: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the level of unemployment was in Milton Keynes in each month since 1997. [228428]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 20 October 2008]*: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of unemployment was in Milton Keynes from 1997 to the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by month. (228428)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics for local areas using model based estimates following the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition.

Model based estimates of unemployment for Milton Keynes are only available for annual periods from March 1997 to February 2004, and for rolling four quarter periods from January 2004. The latest estimates are for the 12 month period ending December 2007.

Table 1, attached, shows model based estimates of the number of people aged 16 and over who were unemployed and resident in Milton Keynes from 1997 to 2007. As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 2 attached shows the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in Milton Keynes for each month since 1997.

These figures along with a wide range of other labour market data for parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are also published on the Office for National Statistics' Nomis® website: www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of unemployed persons[1] resident in Milton Keynes

12 months ending	*Number (Thousand)*
February 1997	5
February 1998	6
February 1999	5
February 2000	4
February 2001	4
February 2002	4
February 2003	6
February 2004	6
December 2004	5
March 2005	5
June 2005	5
September 2005	5
December 2005	5
March 2006	6
June 2006	7
September 2006	7
December 2006	7
March 2007	6
June 2007	6
September 2007	5
December 2007[2]	**6

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

Coefficient of Statistical Robustness Variation (CV) (percentage)

* 0 < CV < 5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 < CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 < CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV > 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source:

Model Based Estimates.

Table 2: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Milton Keynes

	Number
1997	
January	4,440
February	4,441

Table 2: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Milton Keynes

	Number
March	4,157
April	3,979
May	3,766
June	3,470
July	3,540
August	3,575
September	3,446
October	3,025
November	2,734
December	2,745
1998	
January	2,918
February	2,997
March	2,843
April	2,811
May	2,676
June	2,516
July	2,536
August	2,536
September	2,463
October	2,301
November	2,223
December	2,266
1999	
January	2,573
February	2,686
March	2,612
April	2,524
May	2,477
June	2,294
July	2,303
August	2,315
September	2,279
October	2,109
November	2,074
December	2,050
2000	
January	2,429
February	2,446
March	2,370
April	2,196
May	2,153
June	2,062
July	2,052
August	2,042
September	1,959
October	1,829
November	1,709
December	1,769
2001	
January	1,956
February	2,050
March	2,042
April	2,014
May	1,954
June	1,921
July	1,995
August	2,075
September	1,925
October	1,890
November	1,880
December	2,007
2002	
January	2,231
February	2,420
March	2,444
April	2,404
May	2,355
June	2,345
July	2,402
August	2,429
September	2,398
October	2,310
November	2,159
December	2,150
2003	
January	2,428
February	2,696
March	2,815
April	2,790
May	2,656
June	2,667
July	2,685
August	2,707
September	2,792
October	2,663
November	2,645
December	2,586
2004	
January	2,798
February	2,971
March	3,000
April	2,889
May	2,705
June	2,566
July	2,508
August	2,400
September	2,364
October	2,336
November	2,266
December	2,282
2005	
January	2,506
February	2,657
March	2,689
April	2,742
May	2,776
June	2,803
July	2,869
August	2,704
September	2,785
October	2,625

Table 2: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Milton Keynes

	Number
November	2,524
December	2,510
2006	
January	2,776
February	3,056
March	3,513
April	3,376
May	3,296
June	3,254
July	3,352
August	3,273
September	3,262
October	3,150
November	3,041
December	2,965
2007	
January	3,224
February	3,343
March	3,291
April	3,160
May	3,084
June	3,053
July	3,056
August	3,048
September	2,899
October	2,724
November	2,730
December	2,716
2008	
January	2,946
February	3,185
March	3,260
April	3,368
May	3,278
June	3,452
July	3,553
August	3,923
September	3,916

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

Young People: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many 14 to 19 year olds resided in *(a)* the London Borough of Newham, *(b)* the London Borough of Hackney, *(c)* the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and *(d)* London in each of the last five years. [228823]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding how many 14 to 19 year olds resided in (a) the London Borough of Newham, (b) the London Borough of Hackney, (c) the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and (d) London in each of the last five years. (228823)

The table below show the estimated resident population of persons aged 14 to 19 years in the areas requested, for each of the 5 years to 2007, the latest year for which figures are available.

Mid-year population estimates of persons aged 14 to 19, 2003-07

thousand

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Newham	24	24	23	22	21
Hackney	16	16	16	15	15
Tower Hamlets	17	16	16	15	15
Greater London	524	527	526	526	521

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

HEALTH

Alzheimer's Disease

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of *(a)* funding and *(b)* other provision for (i) nursing and (ii) personal care for people with Alzheimer's disease. [228430]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* A draft of a National Dementia Strategy was published on 19 June for consultation. This has already been placed in the Library. The consultation closed on 11 September and we are currently considering carefully all the responses received before deciding the final shape of the strategy, and what resources are available to support its implementation including provision for nursing and personal care, for people with Alzheimer's disease. Funding will be announced around the same time when the strategy is published.

Ambulance Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the clinical basis is for the recommendation of his Department that transfers of patients between ambulance and hospital staff should be completed in under 15 minutes. [228290]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is clearly important that patients are handed over to the care of hospital staff as soon as possible after the ambulance arrives in order to provide them with timely access to their next stages of care and to support a positive patient experience. 15 minutes is considered to be a reasonable time in which handover can be completed. Ambulance and acute trusts are expected to have appropriate clinical governance arrangements in place to ensure a high standard of patient care, including during handover.

Ambulance Services: Fuels

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on fuel for ambulances in each of the last five years. [227764]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on the amount spent on fuel for ambulances. This is a matter for the NHS ambulance trusts to manage locally.

Ambulance Services: Greater Manchester

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost per head of population of the ambulance service was in Greater Manchester in the latest period for which figures are available. [227830]

Mr. Bradshaw: The expenditure per head within the Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area for 2005-06 was £25.54. This is based on the 2005-06 unweighted populations for the primary care trusts within the Greater Manchester SHA area and the total operating expenses for the Greater Manchester Ambulance Service NHS Trust reported in their audited summarisation schedules.

Angina

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that there are enough specialists to treat refractory angina. [227781]

Ann Keen: As set out in the next stage review, the health and social care work force planning system will be locally led, based on the principle that quality is best served by devolving decision making as closely as possible to the frontline in an environment of coherence, transparency and clear accountabilities.

The Department will establish a Centre of Excellence for work force planning and national professional advisory boards, such as Medical Education England, to support local planning through high quality research, analysis and clinical advice to identify long-term work force requirements. The centre will also have a capability and capacity building function to ensure local national health service organisations can produce high quality work force planning. These measures will mean the NHS is in the best position to ensure that we have the right staff with the right skills in the right place at the right time, and that highly trained specialists are delivering the high quality care required for treatment of cases such as refractory angina.

Angina: Medical Treatments

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to inform patients of the National Refractory Angina Centre treatment option. [227786]

Ann Keen: The responsibility for informing patients about their treatment options lies with the clinician responsible for their management and treatment. The clinician should be aware of the different options available.

The National Refractory Angina Centre's website which can be found at:

www.angina.org

provides comprehensive information for patients and clinicians.

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital Trust: Security

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of security cameras at Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital Trust locations have been found to be faulty in each of the last three years. [227775]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

British National Formulary

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements are in place to ensure that NHS hospital and community doctors are supplied with an up-to-date paper copy of the British National Formulary; and what arrangements are in place for *(a)* purchase and *(b)* distribution of such copies; [227559]

(2) whether the British National Formulary is available to NHS hospital and community doctors *(a)* online and *(b)* on disc. [227560]

Phil Hope: The Department purchases copies of the British National Formulary and British National Formulary for Children centrally and arranges for their distribution to national health service doctors and other health care professionals in England.

Both the British National Formulary and British National Formulary for Children are available free online, through the National electronic Library for Medicines, National Library for Health or via the internet at:

www.BNF.org

NHS organisations or individuals can also purchase electronic versions for use on desktop computers, local intranets and personal digital assistants.

Cancer: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on developing anti-cancer drugs in the last 10 years. [227763]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available. The Department does not have details of pharmaceutical industry expenditure on drug development in particular therapeutic areas.

The reply I gave the hon. Member on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1086W, describes the particular contribution the Department makes to the development of new treatments for cancer.

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for cancer treatment in the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital Trust area in the latest period for which information is available. [227761]

Ann Keen: This information is not held in the format requested. However, the latest figures for June 2008 show that general practitioners (GPs) made 2,594 urgent referrals in relation to cancer to the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital NHS Trust. Subsequently, 99.9 per cent. of those patients were seen by a specialist within two weeks of being referred by their GP and 95.6 per cent. commenced their treatment within 62 days of the original referral.

Care Homes: Staff

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on staff shortages in care homes of restrictions on asylum seekers working. [225886]

Phil Hope: There have been no recent changes to United Kingdom asylum rules that affect the social care workforce.

Cord Blood

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the conclusions of the Umbilical Cord Blood Review will be published. [228480]

Dawn Primarolo: As part of a review of cord blood collection and use, the Department commissioned an international comparison with cord blood collection in Canada, China, France, Japan, Spain and the United States of America. The report will be made available later this year and its findings will be taken into account when considering policy in this area.

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence his Department has assessed in considering whether NHS dentists are *(a)* dividing up courses of treatment unnecessarily and *(b)* calling healthy patients back for check-ups unnecessarily. [228272]

Ann Keen: The Dental Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority (DSD) sends out regular management information on contract activity to the national health service. This year the information includes recall intervals.

Historically dentists have tended to recall patients every six months. However guidance issued in 2004 by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence stated that dentists should have more flexible recall intervals, based on each patient's clinical needs, and that orally healthy adults might not need a check-up more than once every two years. Recalling healthy patients at shorter intervals than is clinically needed does not benefit these patients, and potentially blocks access to the NHS for others.

The source of the information is the activity returns, known as FP17s, which dental providers send to the DSD for every course of treatment delivered. These returns show significant variations among dental providers in the proportion of patients recalled at short intervals. The information will allow primary care trusts, who commission local dental services, to work with dentists to identify the causes of the variations and agree appropriate action to support best clinical practice.

Dental Services: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there are per 1,000 people in the London Borough of Havering. [227760]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of dentists with national health service activity, during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 per 100,000 population is available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08' report. Information is available by strategic health authority and by primary care trust. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. The revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708.

Figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what internal reports his Department has produced on *(a)* abortion, *(b)* contraception and *(c)* reproductive health issues in each of the last five years. [227594]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department produces on a regular basis a wide range of internal reports and updates on abortion, contraception and reproductive health issues. An overall record of these reports and the number of them is not available.

Dietary Supplements

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether officials of the Food Standards Agency and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency have had discussions with Royal Mail on its involvement in the delivery of catalogues marketing food supplements and herbal remedies which *(a)* contain illegal ingredients and *(b)* about which claims are made that would be illegal were the products to be placed directly on to the United Kingdom market. [227748]

Dawn Primarolo: Neither the Food Standards Agency nor the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have held discussions with Royal Mail on such matters.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on funding drug treatment services in each year since 1997; and what the projected expenditure on drug treatment services is in each year to 2010-11. [227509]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 2001, the Department and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB). This funding is allocated to the 149 drug action teams across the country to use, along with local mainstream funding, to provide for treatment and services according to the specific needs of each locality. We do not hold information on drug treatment spend prior to 2001.

PTB allocations and local investment in drug treatment is shown in the following table:

£ million

	PTB	*Local funding (figures sourced from the National Treatment Agency[1])*
	Allocation	*Amount*
2001-02	142	145
2002-03	191	131
2003-04	236	200
2004-05	253	204
2005-06	300	208
2006-07	385	212
2007-08	398	206
2008-09	398	206
2009-10	[2]398	[2]206
2010-11	[2]398	[2]206

[1] Figures collated by the NTA, via the treatment planning process.

[2] Estimated spend for 2009-10 and 2010-11 includes contribution to funding of under-18s treatment.

Note:

In addition to the money spent directly on delivering treatment, central and local government funding is also spent on improving access to treatment (e.g. for offenders via Drugs Interventions Programme) and supporting drug misusers after they come out of treatment (e.g. aftercare and Supporting People).

Genito-urinary Medicine

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of genital wart treatment on the *(a)* budget and *(b)* workload of (i) genito-urinary clinics, (ii) cytology and colposcopy services and (iii) GPs' surgeries; and if he will make a statement. [228564]

Dawn Primarolo: No such assessment has been made.

Funding to support sexual health services is not allocated separately to primary care trusts (PCTs) but is contained within the mainstream revenue allocations made to PCTs. It is the responsibility of PCTs to commission the health services they need to meet the health requirements of the local populations they serve.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes in co-operation with other Government Departments to prevent misuse of NHS services by foreign nationals. [227525]

Dawn Primarolo: The "National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989", as amended, place a legal duty on national health service (NHS) trusts to identify those overseas visitors who are liable for charges for hospital treatment and charge them accordingly.

Where appropriate, the Home Department provides NHS trusts with verification of an overseas visitor's immigration status, which helps to establish liability for charges and minimise misuse of the NHS.

In conjunction with the Home Department, the Department is currently reviewing access to the NHS by foreign nationals. The review includes investigating ways in which the NHS can better protect its resources for those entitled to use them, and work more closely with the Home Department to identify those who are not.

Health Services: West Sussex

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answers of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 339W and 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1795W, on health services: West Sussex, what assessment he has made of whether the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority and the West Sussex Primary Care Trust are allowing the panel reviewing services in the north east of West Sussex to consider all viable options. [228119]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has made no assessment of West Sussex Primary Care Trust's review of services in the north east of West Sussex. As stated in the answers I gave the hon. Member on 29 January and 21 April 2008, proposals for changes to services are a local matter. Therefore, I recommend that the right hon. Member continue to engage with the national health service locally on this issue.

Hepatitis

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of new cases of hepatitis C in each of the last 10 years. [227825]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Protection Agency has not had any estimates of newly acquired hepatitis C virus infections in the past 10 years. Such estimates cannot be made directly from national surveillance of serological tests for hepatitis C, as these do not distinguish between acute (new) and chronic (long-term) infections or between resolved and current infections.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1714W, on hospitals: infectious diseases, what the average cost per healthcare associated infection case is in 2008-09 prices; and what the estimated cost for all in-patient admissions in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2006-07 was using the Public Health Laboratory Service assumptions adjusted for inflation and in-patient numbers. [227506]

Ann Keen: The Department does not routinely collect this information and no single definitive cost figure exists. However, a study by the Public Health Laboratory Service[1] (PHLS) in 1999 estimated that hospital-acquired infections (HCAIs) cost the national health service £1 billion a year. This remains the best available estimate of NHS costs, although based on data from 1994-95.

There were 11.4 million in-patient episodes in 1994-95. This suggests the cost per in-patient episode in 1994-95 is equivalent to £87. A cost of £87 in 1994-95 would be equivalent to £137 in 2006-07 prices. It is not possible to provide a more up to date figure because calculations are based on standard pay and price deflators published by the Personal Social Services Research Unit in agreement with the Department. Deflators for 2007-08 are not yet available.

The answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1714W, reported a cost of around £4,300 per HCAI case. This analysis was based primarily on the PHLS report and figures were uprated using standard deflators. However, this figure was attributed to the wrong year, as the figure of £4,300 is appropriate for 2004-05 rather than 2003-04. The equivalent figure for 2006-07 is around £4,600.

[1] R. Plowman, N. Graves, M. Griffin, J. A. Roberts, A. V. Swan, B. Cookson, L. Taylor. The socio-economic burden of hospital acquired infection. Public Health Laboratory Service 1999.

Hospitals: Security Guards

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on security staff in hospitals in Hemel Hempstead constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [228361]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Influenza: Vaccination

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people eligible for the seasonal influenza vaccine in winter 2008-09, broken down by primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [228154]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department estimates that the number of registered patients eligible for the seasonal influenza vaccine will remain similar, or slightly higher, for the 2008-09 influenza season than for 2007-08. The Department estimated that the number of people aged 65 years and over that were eligible for the influenza vaccine in season 2007-08, in England, was around 8.5 million. The number of people under 65 years of age in a risk group that were eligible for the influenza vaccine, in England, was estimated at around 4.6 million. The figures are estimated from an extrapolation of data returned by primary care trusts (PCTs) on the number of patients vaccinated by general practices.

Data for 2008-09 from the PCTs will not be available until mid November 2008 when general practices return their collection surveys to the Department.

The figures, which are broken down by PCT (England only), represents data from 95 per cent. of general practices for 2007-08 and have been placed in the Library.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many seasonal influenza vaccines are available for dispensing in winter 2008-09, broken down by primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [228155]

Dawn Primarolo: General practices order influenza vaccines directly from the suppliers. As such a break down of quantity by primary care trust is not possible.

The Department holds regular discussions with the UK Vaccine Industry Group (UVIG) to ensure adequate vaccine supply for the influenza programme. This year there are 13.5 million influenza doses available for dispensing this winter, in the United Kingdom.

The UVIG has confirmed that this is sufficient to meet all orders placed with the suppliers.

Lung Diseases

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people required treatment for an asbestos-related condition in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [224747]

(2) how many people required treatment for pleural plaques in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [224749]

(3) how many people were diagnosed with mesothelioma in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [224754]

(4) how many people were diagnosed with pleural plaques in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [224755]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested, as there are no data available at the constituency level. The following table shows the number of deaths in South Tyneside, the north-east and the United Kingdom, where asbestos was specified as the underlying cause, from 1997 to 2005, which are the latest figures available.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[1]	*2005*[1]
South Tyneside	3	0	0	0	1	2	5	3	0
North East	10	8	10	13	14	20	19	19	15
England	55	49	55	57	68	94	96	83	107

[1] Provisional

Note:

This excluding cases that also mention mesothelioma

Source: Health and Safety Executive British Asbestosis Register

The following table shows the number of deaths from mesothelioma broken down in the same way.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[1]	*2005*[1]
South Tyneside	15	12	8	15	18	9	8	15	10

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004[1]	2005[1]
North East	126	100	119	123	154	127	112	134	159
England	1,181	1,334	1,406	1,425	1,630	1,622	1,642	1,731	1,787

[1] Provisional

Source:

Health and Safety Executive British Mesothelioma Register

The following table shows the number of admissions to hospital where the primary diagnosis refers to pleural plaques for residents of South Tyneside Primary Care Trust (PCT), North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) (formerly Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA, prior to 2006-07) and England for 1997-98 to 2006-07. This is not the same as how many people have required treatment for pleural plaques as not everyone in need of treatment is admitted to hospital. Also, the number of admissions does not necessarily represent the number of patients as a patient may be admitted to hospital more than once.

	South Tyneside PCT	*North East SHA (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA prior to 2006-07)*	*England*
2006-07	*	33	570
2005-06	7	37	508
2004-05	6	30	433
2003-04	7	25	379
2002-03	*	22	357
2001-02	0	32	352
2000-01	*	23	337
1999-2000	*	26	283
1998-99	*	23	291
1997-98	*	15	245

Notes:

1. Small numbers: Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed in order to protect patient confidentiality.

2. Quality of care: Data derived from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) cannot be used in isolation to evaluate the quality of care provided by NHS trusts. There are many factors that can affect the outcome of treatment and it is beyond the scope of HES to adequately record and present all of these.

3. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

4. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

5. Primary diagnosis: The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital. The ICD-10 codes used to identify Pleural plaques are:

J92.0—Pleural plaque with presence of asbestos.

J92.9—Pleural plaque without asbestos.

6. Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary diagnosis: These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in the primary diagnosis field in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record.

7. Data Quality: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

8. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Medical Equipment

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* national guidance and circulars and *(b)* representations received from NHS organisations on the disposal of crutches. [227511]

Phil Hope: The Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe Management of Healthcare Waste has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

> www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_063274

National health service organisations are required to develop their own waste disposal policies in line with the national waste strategy for England.

The Department has received no representation from NHS organisation[illegible] the disposal of crutches.

Mr. Oaten: To as[illegible] the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1175W, on medical equipment, if he will publish the toolkit developed by The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme to enable local authorities and their health partners to calculate the true cost of their decontamination and recycling. [228427]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* We have decided not to publish the toolkit because it cannot stand alone—support is necessary in order to use it effectively. When a local authority (LA) engages with the programme to explore implementing the model, support will be provided by the national team responsible for the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchairs Services project.

Currently 53 LA and NHS partnerships have the toolkit, out of the 78 that have currently expressed an interest in working more closely with the programme. This means 53 organisations have either completed the exercise or are in the process of collecting their information. The remaining 25 organisations are not at the stage where they have set up their project yet, but are expected to do so in due course.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that UK citizens who opt to have *(a)* medical and *(b)* dental treatment carried out in other EU states receive a sufficient level of practitioner expertise. [226852]

Dawn Primarolo: Unless the national health service explicitly takes responsibility for the standards of care for treatment it offers a patient, it is the standards, regulation and inspection processes of the country of treatment, not those of the NHS that apply.

Midwives: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed by Havering Primary Care Trust *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [227769]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of midwives employed midwives by Havering Primary Care Trust in the years 1997 and 2007 can be found in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September each specified year

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	*Number*
1997	244
2007	295

Note:

In 2000 acute services from Redbridge Healthcare NHS Trust merged with Havering Hospitals NHS Trust to form Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust.

Data quality:

Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data.

Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

Midwives: Redundancy

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS midwives have received redundancy notices in the last two years. [228108]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service midwives to receive compulsory redundancy notices in the last two years is shown in the following table:

Period	*Total number of compulsory redundancies for midwives*	*Total number of compulsory redundancies (all groups)*
2006-07	7	2,330
2007-08	1	2,223
2008-09 (quarter 1 only available)	0	232

Mobile Phones: Health Hazards

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission further research into the possible effects of mobile telephones on health. [228085]

Dawn Primarolo: The Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme has been under way since 2001.

The first set of results were published by the MTHR in 2007. Its overall conclusions were that

> "none of the research supported by the programme and published so far (23 papers) demonstrates that biological or adverse health effects are produced by radiofrequency exposure from mobile phones."

The committee recognised that some concerns still remain and proposed a further programme of work. Three studies in this second phase are already under way. Details can be found on their website at:

www.mthr.org.uk/research_projects/research.htm.

The Health Protection Agency's (HPA) Radiation Protection Division provides advice on mobile phones technology and health to government and the general public. The HPA monitors the scientific literature on mobile phone technology and health in support of its advice.

Further information can be found on the following web page:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1158934607786?p=1158934607786

MRSA: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have contracted MRSA in hospitals in Havering in the last five years. [227762]

Ann Keen: The latest information available held by the Department on the number of cases of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) reported to the Health Protection Agency by Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust is shown in the following table.

	Number of reports to the HPA	*MRSA rate per 10,000 bed days*
April 2003 to March 2004	116	2.4
April 2007 to September 2007	20	0.9
October 2007 to March 2008	20	0.9
April 2008 to June 2008	10	0.9

NHS Direct: Operating Costs

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to the public purse of a telephone call to NHS Direct was in each year since the service was established; and how many calls were made to NHS Direct in each such year. [228109]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is available from 2004-05 onwards, when NHS Direct was established as a national service. The information is available in the following table.

	Total calls to the 0845 4647 service answered (Thousand)	*Cost per call (£)*
2004-05	5,368	22.61
2005-06	5,521	25.54
2006-07	5,009	25.49
2007-08	4,858	25.53

NHS: Compensation

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid in compensation to patients by each London-based hospital trust in each of the last three years. [227824][1]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is in the following table and was obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) website. The data cover compensation paid out to patients under the NHSLA's Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts and Existing Liabilities Scheme. Further information can be found in the NHSLA's published factsheets, available on their website at:

www.nhsla.com/Publications

Compensation paid by year

£

NHS Trust	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	9,704,939	2,558,682	3,969,003
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	2,153,553	1,766,719	2,694,458
Barts and The London Hospitals NHS Trust	5,962,410	1,122,305	1,669,554
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	1,961,575	382,574	1,013,984
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	3,436,922	3,682,525	6,528,221
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	319,570	136,663	159,811
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	2,029,226	827,196	3,001,362
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	331,358	115,918	229,737
Guys and St Thomas Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1,926,549	1,503,895	7,635,693
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	4,361,232	261,661	505,495
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	462,799	3,187,288	1,350,342
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust[1]	1,124,036	4,224,883	11,180,619
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	1,664,813	1,481,754	3,052,508
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	552,580	5,081,598	2,406,222
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	450,795	674,894	1,962,853
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	1,197,728	4,628,306	3,323,737
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	233,534	106,400	47,500
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	2,545,728	949,859	1,941,285
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	1,188,597	3,784,051	1,521,117
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	1,120,443	932,743	1,037,646
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	638,601	963,428	1,241,892
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	105,000	1,385,930	975,018
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	1,267,101	1,064,319	3,409,945
Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	10,096	7,790	53,710
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	3,250	39,375	1,588,837
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	2,242,242	2,119,033	3,186,074
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,635,329	1,159,230	6,047,562
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	304,938	1,335,725	545,146
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	589,503	5,134,654	879,929
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	1,456,604	1,018,720	716,682

[1] Before 2007-08, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust was Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust and St Mary's NHS Trust.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding is allocated within the NHS for protecting staff from intimidation and violence; what guidance has been issued to trusts on how these funds should be spent; and what safeguards have been put in place to ensure the funding is spent for the purposes for which it is intended. [228809]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service allocations for individual primary care trusts are not broken down into funding for separate areas such as staff safety, neither is funding received by providers via the national tariff. It is not possible for the Department to make an accurate assessment of the need to spend on individual priorities at the local level and ring fencing of funding would undermine local assessments and decision-making.

Employers have a duty to address the risks to staff and to ensure their safety. The national health service

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1.*[Official Report, 4 December 2008, Vol. 485, c. 1MC.]*

security management service assist local decisions by providing employers with guidance and support to ensure an effective approach to preventing violence and, where such incidents do occur, to taking action against offenders.

The Department has not centrally monitored the amount spent within the national health service on protecting staff from intimidation and violence.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to hospital trusts on the purchasing of medicines in the last five years. [228270]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) works to ensure that the national health service in England makes the most effective use of its resources by getting the best possible value for money when purchasing goods and services. The prime target is to release money that could be better spent on patient care by achieving purchasing savings and improving supply performance across the NHS. It provides strategic direction and oversees the development of category strategies and seeks to ensure that NHS procurement is delivered through consistent processes. Where sourcing issues require a national lead they will provide that focus on behalf of the Department. A wide range of guidance is published for the use of those involved in NHS procurement and is available on NHS PASA's website at:

www.pasa.nhs.uk/PASAWeb/NHSprocurement/AboutNHSPASA/LandingPage.htm

NHS PASA works with trust pharmacists to deliver the procurement of medicines for secondary care via a nationally agreed sourcing strategy. The focus of this work will be to ensure security of supply, delivery of savings and enabling the NHS to realise improvements in the supply chain. Detailed guidance on the procurement of individual medicines is provided where necessary on a case by case basis.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of expenditure in the NHS was spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* monitoring targets in 2007-08. [228096]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect the specific information requested.

The Department does collect information that will form part of administration and monitoring costs. This includes the cost of administration and clerical staff groups, which (excluding NHS foundation trusts) represented approximately 4 per cent. of the total expenditure of the NHS in the 2007-08 financial year, compared to approximately 5.3 per cent. in the 1997-98 financial year. However, it should be noted that many staff included within this expenditure will have operational rather than purely administrative roles.

In addition, the Department also collects Management Cost information, which (excluding NHS foundation trusts) represented approximately 3 per cent. of the total expenditure of the NHS in the 2007-08 financial year. It should be noted management costs much more than just the cost of administration and monitoring targets.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of those employed by the NHS were employed in *(a)* medical posts, *(b)* administrative posts and *(c)* posts with both medical and administrative responsibilities in the latest period for which figures are available. [228079]

Ann Keen: The following table shows both the head count and percentage of national health service staff employed as professionally qualified clinical staff, which includes doctors, qualified nursing, qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff, and ambulance staff. Numbers and percentages for staff with a medical and administrative background are unavailable.

NHS hospital and community health services and general practice (GP) work force (excluding GP retainers) England at 30 September 2007

	Headcount	*Percentage*
Total employed staff	1,330,544	100
Professionally qualified clinical staff	681,246	51.2
All doctors[1,2]	127,645	9.6
Qualified nursing staff[3]	399,597	30.0
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	136,976	10.3
Qualified ambulance staff	17,028	1.3
Total clerical and administrative staff[4]	256,686	19.3
Central functions	128,620	9.7
Hotel, property and estates	8,818	0.7
St and T support	14,391	1.1
Clerical support	101,125	7.6
Ambulance service support	3,732	0.3
Other non-medical staff[5]	298,097	22.4
Other GP practice staff[6]	94,515	7.1

[1] Excludes GP retainers.

[2] Figures exclude HCHS medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals who have been excluded to avoid double counting.

[3] Nursing and midwifery figures exclude students on training courses leading to a first qualification as a nurse or midwife. Includes GP practice nurses.

[4] Examples of staff in central functions are staff in HR, informatics, payroll, and library staff.

Examples of staff in Hotel, property and estates are clerical laundry staff, domestic services and home wardens.

Examples of staff in ST and T support are clerical staff in audiology, haematology, dietetics and microbiology.

Ambulance service support staff are ambulance controllers, training staff and ambulance officers.

[5] Other non-medical staff includes ambulance support staff, maintenance and works staff and a small number of other and unknown staff.

[6] Other practice staff—there is no breakdown of type of work for headcount data. However type of work is available for full time equivalent practice staff and the majority (over 80 per cent. in 2007) were admin and clerical staff.

Data quality:

Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

1. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal medical services statistics
2. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
3. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

NHS: Reorganisation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which firms have been contracted to work on the *(a)* internal communication and *(b)* external communication with the public aspects of the NHS Next Stage Review; and what the value is of these contracts. [228043]

Ann Keen: The Department has purchased the services of a range of companies in connection with public-facing communications on the national health service next stage review. The project team itself has procured services from 20 companies. These organisations have assisted the project team in a range of areas including the following:

Design and facilitation of review events; and

Communications including production of materials, including the interim and final report, and website management.

The total amount paid to these companies is approximately £3.3 million.

Nurses: General Practitioners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* allied health professionals work in GP practices in each London borough; [227789]

(2) how many GP practices there are in each London borough. [227790]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of nurses and general practitioner practices can be found in the following table.

However, information on allied healthcare professionals is not held centrally.

GP practices and practice nurses by primary care trust (PCT) in London, as at 30 September 2007

	GP practices	*Practice nurses*
Havering PCT	51	103
Kingston PCT	28	72
Bromley PCT	51	117
Greenwich Teaching PCT	45	116
Barnet PCT	74	153
Hillingdon PCT	50	95
Enfield PCT	61	96
Barking and Dagenham PCT	42	83
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	47	91
Tower Hamlets PCT	36	82
Newham PCT	67	105
Haringey Teaching PCT	59	92
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	31	47
Ealing PCT	79	131
Hounslow PCT	57	79
Brent Teaching PCT	70	105
Harrow PCT	39	90
Camden PCT	43	65
Islington PCT	40	61
Croydon PCT	62	145
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	44	36
Westminster PCT	51	91
Lambeth PCT	54	136
Southwark PCT	49	102
Lewisham PCT	48	115
Wandsworth PCT	49	123
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	31	90
Sutton and Merton PCT	54	131
Redbridge PCT	49	84
Waltham Forest PCT	53	84
Bexley Care Trust	32	100
Total	1,546	2,989

Notes
1. The annual GP Census collection does not collect data broken down by allied health professionals working within GP practices.
2. Data not available for London boroughs. PCT boundaries correspond exactly to London boroughs.

Data quality
Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified school nurses there have been in each primary care trust in each year since 1997. [228009]

Ann Keen: School nurse occupation codes were first introduced in 2004. Consequently data can be provided only from this time. The information has been placed in the Library.

Obesity: Surgery

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what options for bariatric surgery for the morbidly obese are provided by *(a)* Gateshead and South Tyneside Primary Care Trust and *(b)* Liverpool Primary Care Trust in their respective areas; [227617]

(2) how many morbidly obese patients in *(a)* the Gateshead and South Tyneside Primary Care Trust area and *(b)* the Liverpool Primary Care Trust area have been offered a duodenal switch in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008 to date. [227618]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published "Guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children". This is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/CG43

This guidance is for both health and non-health professionals, and contains guidance on when bariatric surgery may be considered as an option.

It is up to primary care trusts as local commissioners and providers of services to determine the most appropriate methods to deliver health care to their populations, based on clinical need and effectiveness, and following medical advice.

Ophthalmology: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the NHS budget was spent on ophthalmology in 2007-08. [227766]

Ann Keen: Expenditure data relating to 'Problems of Vision', covering both primary and secondary care services, are collected as part of the annual programme budgeting returns to the Department by primary care trusts. Programme budgeting data for 2007-08 are not scheduled to be collected from primary care trusts until December 2008 and therefore are not currently available.

Ophthalmology: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many opticians there are per 1,000 people in the London Borough of Havering. [227759]

Ann Keen: The information is not held centrally. The Information Centre for health and social care will publish the numbers of General Ophthalmic Services ophthalmic practitioners per 100,000 population, as at 31 December 2007, in the "General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales, 31 December 2007" report. It is anticipated that the report will be published in November 2008, with information available by primary care trust and strategic health authority.

Organs: Donors

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Organ Donation Taskforce. [228479]

Ann Keen: A Programme Delivery Board, Chaired by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS Medical Director, has been established to bring together all those with a role in implementing the recommendations, including representatives from all four UK Health Departments, NHS Blood and Transplant, Human Tissue Authority, National Commissioning Group, Healthcare Commission and the relevant professional organisations. The Board will be responsible for ensuring that all recommendations are fully implemented.

In addition, Chris Rudge took up his appointment as the first National Clinical Director for Transplantation in September, with a remit of driving forward the implementation of the Taskforce recommendations.

Pharmacy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many licensed pharmacies there are in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [228537]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 20 October 2008]*: This information is only collected at primary care trust (PCT) level. The number of community pharmacies open in Lancashire PCTs at 31 March 2007 is shown in the following table.

Information relating to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for each Devolved Administration.

	Number of community pharmacies
England	10,133
Blackburn with Darwen Teaching PCT	36
Blackpool PCT	42
Central Lancashire PCT	88
East Lancashire PCT	85
North Lancashire PCT	60

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been of investigations into alleged wrongfully claimed exemptions from prescription charges in the last 12 months; and how much the NHS received in penalty charges during that period. [227929]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ritalin

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been prescribed ritalin in England in each of the last 10 years. [227777]

Phil Hope: Ritalin is a brand name for methylphenidate hydrochloride. The product is also available under the different brand names Concerta, Equasym, Metadate and Tranquilyn.

The number of people prescribed a medicine is not held centrally. The number of prescription items for methylphenidate hydrochloride dispensed in the community in England for the period requested is shown in the following table.

Calendar year	*Number of prescription items dispensed (Thousand)*
1998	126.621
1999	157.952
2000	186.190
2001	208.452
2002	253.956
2003	314.460
2004	359.068
2005	389.186
2006	456.909
2007	535.328

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) Data

Social Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each local authority area were in receipt of the social care personal expenses allowance in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [226302]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Care home residents who are supported by local authorities contribute most of their income to pay for the cost of their care, but to ensure they have money to spend on personal items, they are guaranteed a weekly personal expenses allowance (PEA). The PEA is not a benefit paid to residents, but the minimum amount of their own money they must be left with, after their contribution to the cost of their care has been deducted from their income. All care home residents who are supported by local authorities in residential accommodation under section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 will, therefore, receive at least the PEA each week.

The following table shows the total number of people aged 18 or over receiving funding from their local authority to pay for their residential home placement as at 31 March each year.

Local authority supported residents in registered accommodation, at 31 March 2003 to 2007, England

	Rounded number
2003	284,135
2004	277,950
2005	267,240
2006	256,950
2007	247,285

Source:
SR1 form.

Surgery

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times were for *(a)* heart and *(b)* cancer operations in (i) Chesterfield, (ii) Derbyshire and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [225900]

Ann Keen: Average waiting times for heart surgery for the relevant organisations are shown in the following table.

Mean and median days waited for a heart operation 1997-98 to 2006-07

	England			Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust			Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation trust		
	Mean days waited	Median days waited	Finished Consultant Episodes	Mean days waited	Median days waited	Finished Consultant Episodes	Mean days waited	Median days waited	Finished Consultant Episodes
2006-07	65	56	294,811	45	42	846	44	36	1,506
2005-06	74	60	287,215	52	30	896	117	45	1,547
2004-05	87	69	270,917	95	111	559	97	43	1,227
2003-04	100	70	254,710	2	2	32	52	21	1,156
2002-03	108	74	233,223	8	8	27	58	36	920
2001-02	109	69	214,077	[1]—	[1]—	44	60	41	990
2000-01	112	69	198,718	[1]—	[1]—	50	116	60	983
1999-2000	102	60	185,750	[1]—	[1]—	58	103	60	819
1998-99	108	63	177,711	[1]—	[1]—	42	26	13	737
1997-98	105	60	161,922	[1]—	[1]—	31	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Denotes very few heart operations were performed in Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust between 1997-98 and 2001 02. Those heart operations that did take place were likely to be emergency procedures.

[2] Denotes 1997-98 data have not been provided for Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust due to a complex merger that occurred during this time.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Statistics on average waiting times between decision to treat and treatment for cancer surgery are not collected centrally. Performance against the cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 31 days from decision to treat to first cancer treatment for the relevant organisations are shown in the following table

Percentage of patients treated within 31 days of a clinical diagnosis being made by a responsible specialist—all cancers

				Percentage
	Quarter	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	England
2004-05	Q4	99.0	91.8	91.1
2005-06	Q4	100.0	98.7	98.9
2006-07	Q4	99.7	99.5	99.6
2007-08	Q4	100.0	98.7	99.5

Surgery: Training

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact of the EU Working Time Directive on the effectiveness of surgical training; what representations he has received from the Royal College of Surgeons on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [225299]

Ann Keen: The Department has received a small number of representations from the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) about the European Working Time

Directive (EWTD) and the impact of SiMAP and Jaeger European Court of Justice Rulings in reducing the number of operations undertaken by trainee surgeons. This includes letters and discussion points at meetings.

The Government highlighted the importance of supporting surgical training when striving for changes to the EWTD. The European Council of Employment Ministers agreed in June that the EWTD should be amended and negotiations have moved forward to the European Parliament.

The Government have sponsored research by the RCS (and the Royal College of Anaesthetists) to identify how surgical and anaesthesia services are attempting to meet the requirements of WTD 2009 and to formulate appropriate advice and examples of good practice.

Several North West trusts have achieved the 48-hour week requirement a year early and maximised training opportunities for surgeons through introducing innovative working patterns, in consultation with their doctors in training.

Tuberculosis

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis have been reported in each county in each year since 1997. [227296]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available from the Health Protection Agency Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance scheme has been placed in the Library.

Vaccination: Travel

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the provision of travel-related vaccines by the NHS. [227828]

Dawn Primarolo: Certain vaccinations and immunisations for travel abroad are available free of charge on the national health service:

typhoid,
cholera,
polio,
infectious hepatitis (Hep A).

It is at the discretion of the general practitioner if they give any other travel vaccines free of charge.

West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust: Security

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of security cameras at West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust locations have been found to be faulty in each of the last three years. [228360]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children's Plan

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many resources, how many facilities and how much funding announced in the Children's Plan is not yet committed; what *(a)* facilities and *(b)* funding he plans to make available to organisations in Herefordshire, including Herefordshire Council, under the Children's Plan; and if he will make a statement. [228156]

Beverley Hughes: The Children's Plan set out how resources would be allocated to the Department's priorities.

In the majority of cases this resource has already been committed. However, for some policies the detail of the plans is still being decided for 2009/10 and beyond.

When the roll-out plans have been finalised, we will endeavour to announce further allocations in good time to allow Herefordshire and other LAs to plan activities and programmes.

The Department will be reporting on progress towards the Children's Plan later this year.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many childcare places of each type *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year since 2003; [228897]

(2) how many *(a)* after-school facilities and *(b)* holiday clubs have closed in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) in each quarter of the last three years; [228662]

(3) how many *(a)* after-school facilities and *(b)* holiday clubs have opened in each of the last 10 years; [228663]

(4) how many *(a)* after-school and *(b)* holiday club places for children have opened in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) each quarter of the last three years. [228672]

Beverley Hughes: Ofsted do not separately identify after-school facilities and holiday clubs, these are included in the Out of School Day Care category. The available information is shown in the tables.

Number and percentage of childcare places that have opened and closed[1]: Position as at 31 March each year, England

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
Opened	238,600	21.6	254,100	21.6	212,800	17.0	198,400	15.5	188,300	14.6
Childminders	62,800	19.6	53,000	16.8	48,800	15.1	47,500	14.9	40,300	13.5
Full Daycare	98,600	21.6	117,600	22.7	89,900	15.9	85,500	14.3	83,400	13.4
Out of school[2]	77,200	23.6	83,500	24.5	74,200	20.2	85,400	17.9	64,600	17.5

Number and percentage of childcare places that have opened and closed[1]: Position as at 31 March each year, England

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
Closed	128,400	11.6	200,800	17.1	147,600	11.8	180,200	14.1	190,400	14.8
Childminders	50,400	15.8	63,000	19.9	44,800	13.9	54,800	17.3	63,000	21.1
Full Daycare	38,500	8.4	65,600	12.7	50,000	8.8	57,700	9.6	64,700	10.4
Out of school[2]	39,400	12.1	72,200	21.2	52,700	14.4	67,600	18.5	62,700	17.0
Net steady state changes[3]	+24,600	2.2	+19,200	1.6	+8,800	0.7	+9,100	0.7	+10,700	0.8
Childminders	+6,400	2.0	+6,300	2.0	+2,100	0.7	+2,900	0.9	+3,600	1.2
Full Daycare	+14,600	3.2	+9,600	1.9	+5,500	1.0	+5,200	0.9	+5,200	0.8
Out of school[2]	+3,600	1.0	+3,300	1.0	+1,100	0.3	+1,100	0.3	+1,900	0.5
Net change	+134,900	12.2	+72,600	6.2	+74,000	5.9	+27,400	2.1	+8,500	0.7

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] out of School Day Care figures may not include services in extended schools as OFSTED data only includes providers that have to register separately.

[3]. The Net Study State refers to registered providers who registration status has not changed, but whose number of places has fluctuated over the period in question.

Source:
Ofsted

Number and percentage of childcare providers that have opened and closed[1]: Position as at 31 March each year, England

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
Opened	21,200	22.9	18,500	20.2	16,400	17.3	15,500	16.4	13,500	15.1
Childminders	16,300	22.5	13,100	18.6	11,900	16.6	11,200	16.1	9,300	14.5
Full daycare	2,500	22.6	2,800	23.3	2,300	17.3	2,200	15.9	2,100	15.0
Out of school[2]	2,400	25.9	2,600	27.3	2,300	21.6	2,100	19.7	2,000	19.0
Closed	14,400	15.5	19,200	20.9	13,400	14.0	16,400	17.4	18,200	20.4
Childminders	12,100	16.7	15,300	21.8	10,500	14.7	12,900	18.5	14,600	22.6
Full daycare	1,100	9.7	1,800	14.5	1,300	10.1	1,500	10.8	1,700	11.8
Out of school[2]	1,200	13.0	2,200	22.6	1,500	14.6	2,000	18.7	1,900	18.1

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] Out of school day care figures may not include services in extended schools as Ofsted data only include providers that have to register separately.

Source:
Ofsted

The Department is unable to provide accurate details of closure rates for child care places and providers prior to 2003.

Since March 2003 data on closure rates have been available from Ofsted. Their data on closures include registered places in settings which are transferring ownership, and in settings which move from one Ofsted category to another, not just those which are ceasing trading.

Departmental Consultants

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1113W, on departmental consultants, what estimate his Department makes for planning purposes of the average costs of undertaking a public consultation. [228701]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The majority of the Department's formal consultations are undertaken in-house by the Central Consultation Unit—the costs for which are given in my response to the hon. Lady's pursuant question on departmental publications. Any costs beyond this are normally met by the policy area commissioning the consultation; these are not recorded centrally and could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1115-6W, on departmental publications, what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing costs of the (i) Central Publications Team and (ii) Central Consultation Unit were in the last 12 months. [228705]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows:

(i) The budget for this Department's Central Publications Team was £100,000 in 2007-08 and staffing costs were £75,838.

(ii) The budget for the Central Consultation Unit covers the staffing costs for the unit and the cost of maintaining the Department's on-line e-consultation system. In 2007-08 the staffing costs were £189,624 and the cost of the e-consultation system was £13,155.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which information and guidance documents his Department circulated to *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in 2007. [228794]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department issued a fortnightly email to all schools in England in 2007 highlighting key information, including guidance and legislation. The Department only circulates documents to schools in exceptional cases, having stopped regular paper mailings in December 2004.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department and its predecessors in each year since 2001. [228942]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was created on 28 June 2007. Since that time 187 security passes have been reported as lost and 20 reported as stolen.

Although we could provide incomplete information prior to the creation of DSCF, the collation of the records dating from 2001 from each HQ building and each prior Department would be both difficult and time consuming and would take us over the disproportionate cost limit.

GCE A-level

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of sixth form students *(a)* in the state sector and *(b)* at grammar schools achieved three or more grade As at A-level in 2008. [227905]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The proportions of sixth form students who achieved three or more A grades at A-level in 2008, by type of school, are shown in table 1 of the statistical first release 'GCE/VCEA/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2007/08 (Provisional)':

> http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000816/index.shtml.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 590W, on GCE A-level, if he will disaggregate the figures in the previous answer by *(a)* grade and *(b)* type of school. [228565]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information broken down by school type has been placed in the House of Commons Library. Only figures at A-level are fully broken down by all grades and figures for GCSE are provided using the A*-C and A*-G breakdowns.

Full grade breakdowns for GCSE and the equivalent figures for AS-levels can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils did not gain a GCSE at *(a)* C grade or above, *(b)* D grade or above and *(c)* E grade or above in 2008; [228685]

(2) how many pupils did not obtain five A* to G grades at GCSE, excluding equivalents, in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; [228686]

(3) how many pupils did not obtain any GCSEs, excluding equivalents, in 2008. [228687]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested for 2008 is given in the following table. This information is based on provisional statistics and schools are currently checking their results and providing amendments as part of the annual results checking exercise.

	Number	*Percentage*
Did not obtain five A*-G	89,039	13.6
Did not obtain one A*-C	137,379	21.0
Did not obtain one A*-D	76,320	11.7
Did not obtain one A*-E	44,733	6.8
Did not obtain one A*-G	24,636	3.8

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 14 October, *Official Report*, column 1123W, for information of the number of pupils who did not obtain five GCSEs at grades A*-G in 2007.

Grammar Schools: Admissions

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the total student entry to secondary education in England in 2008 enrolled in grammar schools. [227904]

Jim Knight: The requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The latest available information shows the number of schools and pupils by admissions policy of the school and has been placed in the Library.

Pre-school Education: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Darlington constituency took up free nursery places in each of the last 10 years. [228376]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Table 1 provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in Darlington parliamentary constituency area. Data at parliamentary constituency level are not yet available for 2008.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] [3] filled by three and four-year-olds: parliamentary constituency Darlington—position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			*Four-year-olds*		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[5]	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[6]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[7]	*Total four-year-olds*
2004	780	290	1,100	990	100	1,100
2005	700	270	970	890	110	1,000
2006	710	310	1,000	860	90	940

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2,3] filled by three and four-year-olds: parliamentary constituency Darlington—position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			*Four-year-olds*		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[5]	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[6]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[7]	*Total four-year-olds*
2007	710	330	1,000	930	130	1,100

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[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency prior to 2004 are not available.

[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

[6] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Table 2 provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds for Darlington local authority area for the years 1999 to 2008.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds: local authority Darlington—position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			*Four-year-olds*		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total four-year-olds*
1999	1,000	n/a	1,000	n/a	n/a	[5,6]1,300
2000	980	[7]0	1,000	n/a	n/a	[5,6]1,300
2001	920	[7]60	970	n/a	n/a	[5,6]1,300
2002	920	[7]290	1,200	1,100	[5]110	1,200
2003	870	[7]350	1,200	1,100	[8]130	1,200
2004	780	[9]370	1,200	1,100	[10]120	1,200
2005	700	[9]350	1,100	970	[10]150	1,100
2006	740	[9]370	1,100	950	[10]120	1,100
2007	740	[9]390	1,100	1,000	[10]150	1,200
2008	810	[9]410	1,200	1,100	[10]140	1,200

n/a = Not available.

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[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[6] For the years 1999-2001, four-year-old sub national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.

[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008", available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average length of time was between permanent exclusion of a pupil and their placement in another mainstream school or pupil referral unit in the latest year for which figures are available; [227996]

(2) in how many maintained mainstream schools more than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 15 per cent., *(c)* 20 per cent., *(d)* 25 per cent., and *(e)* 30 per cent. of pupils have been excluded in any one 12 month period in each of the last five years; [227997]

(3) how many incidents of violence towards *(a)* staff and *(b)* pupils were reported in the 10 per cent. of (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools with the (A) lowest and (B) highest levels of free school meal entitlement in the latest year for which data are available; [227998]

(4) how many incidents of violence towards *(a)* staff and *(b)* pupils were reported in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in the 10 per cent. of areas of (A) lowest and (B) highest deprivation in the latest year for which data are available. [227999]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils attended more than *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three pupil referral units in each of the last 10 years. [228736]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information on pupil referral units is not collected centrally.

Pupil Referral Units: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were excluded from pupil referral units for assaulting *(a)* teachers and *(b)* other pupils in each of the last 10 years. [228731]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on exclusions from pupil referral units is only available for the school years 2003/04 and 2004/05 and this is shown in the following table. Information on the reasons for exclusion is only available at disproportionate cost.

Pupil referral units: number and percentage of exclusions,2003/04 and 2004/05, England

	Permanent exclusions				*Fixed period exclusions*			
	2003/04		*2004/05*		*2003/04*		*2004/05*	
	Number	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]
England[2]	30	0.26	40	0.28	5,780	44.34	7,630	52.75

[1] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils in pupil referral units.

[2] National figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Termly Exclusions Survey.

Pupil Referral Units: Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils at pupil referral units had *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented educational needs, broken down by type of need. [228732]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number of pupils at pupil referral units with special educational needs, either with a statement or without a statement, can be found in tables 1a and 1b of the 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2008' Statistical First Release accessible via

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/PB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml.

Information broken down further by type of need is not held centrally.

Pupils: Dyslexia

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of school students were dyslexic in 2007. [227899]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the number of pupils with dyslexia is not collected centrally. Pupils categorised as having a 'Specific Learning Difficulty' have a particular difficulty in learning to read, write, spell or manipulate numbers and this includes pupils with dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia. The number and percentage of pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties in 2007 (either with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or supported at SEN School Action Plus, where the school involves external support/advice to meet the child's needs) can be found in table 9 of the 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2007' Statistical First Release accessible via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

The Department does not collect data on the particular special education needs of pupils at School Action (who represent more than half of all children with SEN).

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children did not achieve a place at the secondary school of their choice in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [228964]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This is the first year that local authorities have been required to provide data to the Secretary of State on secondary school offers made to parents on national offer day. The data were published on the DCSF research gateway

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway

on 11 March at local authority, regional and national levels. Figures for Lancashire show that 13 per cent. (1,748) of children did not obtain a place at their first choice of secondary school. We do not collect data on primary school offers.

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of funding for schools in England was directed to students with special needs and learning difficulties in 2007-08; and what proportion of the school student body they comprised. [227901]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: During the 2007-08 financial year, local authorities in England budgeted to spend almost £4.9 billion on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs. This £4.9 billion represents a 76.0 per cent. increase since the 2000-01 financial year (comparable data are not available prior to 2000-01) and 12.8 per cent. of local authorities' total planned education revenue expenditure for 2007-08. In addition to the planned expenditure of almost £4.9 billion, local authorities in England also budgeted a further £554.9 million for SEN transport during 2007-08.

As at January 2008, 20 per cent. of pupils had special educational needs (SEN), 2.8 per cent. had SEN 'statements' and 17.2 per cent. had SEN without statements. Much of the expenditure on the latter group will come from schools' general budgets and will not be included within the £4.9 billion identified for SEN.

Teenage Pregnancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of girls aged *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15 and *(e)* 16 were recorded as being pregnant in each of the last five years. [228727]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rates of conception were for girls aged (a) 12, (b) 13, (c) 14, (d) 15 and (e) 16 in each of the last five years. (228727)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

To preserve confidentiality of individuals; figures for girls aged 12 and 13 are not available separately. The numbers and rates of conceptions to (a, b) all girls aged under 14, and girls aged (c) 14, (d) 15 and (e) 16 in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table.

Conceptions by age: number and rate per 1,000. England and Wales, 2002-06

	Under 14		*14*		*15*		*16*	
	Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
2002	390	1.2	1,858	5.5	5,627	17.1	13,475	41.6
2003	334	1.0	1,888	5.7	5,802	17.2	13,303	40.3
2004	337	1.0	1,754	5.2	5,524	16.5	13,636	40.0
2005	327	1.0	1,830	5.4	5,773	17.1	13,335	39.4
2006	295	0.9	1,764	5.2	5,767	16.8	13,107	38.6

[1] Conceptions to girls under 14 per 1,000 girls aged 13

TREASURY

Asbestos

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were diagnosed with an asbestos-related condition in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [224757]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the format requested, as there are no data available at the constituency level. The following table shows the number of deaths in South Tyneside, the north-east and the United Kingdom, where asbestos was specified as the underlying cause, from 1997 to 2005, which are the latest figures available.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[1]	*2005*[1]
South Tyneside	3	0	0	0	1	2	5	3	0
North East	10	8	10	13	14	20	19	19	15
England	55	49	55	57	68	94	96	83	107

[1] Provisional

Note:

This excluding cases that also mention mesothelioma

Source:

Health and Safety Executive British Asbestosis Register

The following table shows the number of deaths from mesothelioma broken down in the same way.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[1]	*2005*[1]
South Tyneside	15	12	8	15	18	9	8	15	10
North East	126	100	119	123	154	127	112	134	159
England	1,181	1,334	1,406	1,425	1,630	1,622	1,642	1,731	1,787

[1] Provisional

Source:

Health and Safety Executive British Mesothelioma Register

The following table shows the number of admissions to hospital where the primary diagnosis refers to pleural plaques for residents of South Tyneside Primary Care Trust (PCT), North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) (formerly Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA, prior to 2006-07) and England for 1997-98 to 2006-07. This is not the same as how many people have required treatment for pleural plaques as not everyone in need of treatment is admitted to hospital. Also, the number of admissions does not necessarily represent the number of patients as a patient may be admitted to hospital more than once.

	South Tyneside PCT	*North East SHA (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA prior to 2006-07)*	*England*
2006-07	*	33	570
2005-06	7	37	508
2004-05	6	30	433
2003-04	7	25	379
2002-03	*	22	357
2001-02	0	32	352
2000-01	*	23	337
1999-2000	*	26	283

	South Tyneside PCT	North East SHA (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA prior to 2006-07)	England
1998-99	*	23	291
1997-98	*	15	245

Notes:

1. Small numbers: Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed in order to protect patient confidentiality.

2. Quality of care: Data derived from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) cannot be used in isolation to evaluate the quality of care provided by NHS trusts. There are many factors that can affect the outcome of treatment and it is beyond the scope of HES to adequately record and present all of these.

3. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

4. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

5. Primary diagnosis: The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital. The ICD-10 codes used to identify pleural plaques are:
J92.0—Pleural plaque with presence of asbestos.
J92.9—Pleural plaque without asbestos.

6. Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary diagnosis: These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in the primary diagnosis field in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record.

7. Data Quality: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

8. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Bank Services

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what legislative powers the Government recently froze the assets of Icelandic banks in the United Kingdom. [227922]

Ian Pearson: The Government froze the UK funds of Landsbanki under the power in section 4 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act, 2001. HMG has not frozen any other Icelandic banks. The Act includes a range of provisions. In this instance, use of the power had no relation to the counter-terrorism provisions elsewhere in the Act. The power allows HMG to make a freezing order where action to the detriment of the United Kingdom's economy (or part of it) has been or is likely to be taken by a foreign Government or other person. This was the basis on which the power was used. The Treasury will keep the freezing order under review.

Bank Services: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what directions he has given to the Financial Services Authority to improve and make more transparent securitisation and credit default swaps markets. [227923]

Ian Pearson: The FSA and HM Treasury are engaged with the UK trade associations involved in developing the market-led "Ten Industry Initiatives to Increase Transparency in the Securitisation Market". These 10 initiatives are in response to the European Council of Finance Ministers (ECOFIN) October 2007 Roadmap, and have been submitted to the European Commission.

Banks: Incentives

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, under the bank restructuring plan announced on 13 October, board members and other senior executives of banks in receipt of recapitalisation funds and investment capital from public funds will be permitted to receive any non-cash bonuses in the form of share options, pension benefits or other non-cash end-of-year benefits. [227920]

Ian Pearson: As part of its investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the capitalisation scheme. The Government expect that no cash bonuses will be paid to Directors in the current year. Going forward, and to ensure that taxpayers' interests as shareholders in the bank are protected, and the performance of the company enhanced, directors' remuneration will be linked to long-term value creation and take account of risk.

The terms have been agreed on a case-by-case basis with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme, although elements are common to all participating banks.

Credit Unions

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of credit unions there are. [228284]

Ian Pearson: The total number of credit union members in Great Britain as at end December 2007 (based on the annual supervisory returns submitted by credit unions to the FSA) was 675,789 with a breakdown as follows:

	Number of credit union members
Qualifying members	580,101
Non-qualifying members	11,903
Juvenile depositors[1]	83,785

[1] Persons too young to be members or hold shares.

There are in addition 419,364 members in 180 credit unions in Northern Ireland.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what credit unions were registered in each region of the UK in each year since 1997. [228285]

Ian Pearson: The breakdown of credit union registrations in the UK by region since 1997 is as follows:

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Scotland	11	10	8	5	2	3	1	3	0	2	1	0	46
Wales	2	3	4	4	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	18
England[1]	37	34	38	31	20	28	10	12	10	8	2	1	231
Northern Ireland	—	5	6	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	15
Total	50	52	56	40	25	32	12	16	12	10	4	1	310

[1] East Midlands, East of England, Greater London, North East, North West, South East, South West, West Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber.

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many agencies were sponsored by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228516]

Angela Eagle: The Next Steps Report 1997 (Cm3889) provided information on all Executive Agencies as at 31 December 1997. The most up-to-date list of Executive Agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication The List of Ministerial Responsibilities. The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly.

Fireworks: Imports

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures are in place to ensure that containers of imported fireworks leaving UK ports of entry are taken directly to the licensed site address provided to HM Revenue and Customs by the importer. [226686]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

Regulation 11 of the Fireworks Regulations 2004 requires all firework importers to notify HM Revenue and Customs of their name and address, the name of the person who is to store the fireworks following importation and the address of the premises at which the fireworks are to be stored following their importation. This information is passed to Suffolk county council trading standards department who act as national co-ordinators and pass this information on to the relevant local authorities and or the Health and Safety Executive to notify them to expect a consignment of fireworks to a company in their area. This trigger should ensure that a company is visited to make sure that the fireworks have arrived.

Income Tax: Prisoners

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 376W, on income tax: prisoners, what his policy is on the payment of income tax by prisoners. [228971]

Mr. Timms: Like other individuals, prisoners pay income tax in accordance with the law.

Inspections

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many inspectors were employed by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228095]

Angela Eagle: None.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the chief executive of HM Revenue and Customs received the letter dated 24 September from the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on his constituent, reference chm/09440/2008; and when he expects the matter to be resolved. [228968]

Mr. Timms: The acting chief executive received a letter dated 16 September from my right hon. Friend on 22 September, to which he replied on 21 October.

Mortgages: Compensation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has considered the merits of setting up a compensation scheme to assist mortgage holders facing negative equity as a result of the mis-selling of mortgages by banks. [227926]

Ian Pearson: In 2004 the Government extended the scope of Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulation to cover mortgages. FSA regulation ensures that borrowers are afforded suitable protections. FSA regulation also provides appropriate means of redress for borrowers through recourse to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS). The Financial Service Compensation Scheme (FSCS) provides compensation for borrowers in case a financial institution is unable to meet its liabilities.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many powers of entry have been established in legislation introduced by his Department since 1997; and how many have been abolished. [228060]

Angela Eagle: I refer the right hon. and learned Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1060W. All of the provisions referred to in that reply are still in force.

As the reply given by the Minister of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W said, his review into powers of entry is establishing the continuing need for existing powers.

Private Finance Initiative

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 5796W, on the private finance initiative, on how many occasions one party has failed to meet its obligation under a contract; on how many occasions a contract failure has led to contract re-negotiations; and on how many occasions a contract failure has led to a reversion to public ownership. [227879]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: The information requested is not available.

Public Finance

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost was of Government in the UK, including local government, in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [227883]

Yvette Cooper: Latest figures for total managed expenditure are *(a)* £583.0 billion for 2007-08 and *(b)* £322.0 billion for 1997-98. This information can be found in the latest Public Sector Finances Databank at (Table B1):

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/5552.htm

Total managed expenditure is a measure of current and capital expenditure for the whole of the public sector, including public corporations and local government.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's overall potential financial liability is as a result of the measures taken to support the British banking system in the last 12 months. [227886]

Ian Pearson: The extent to which additional financial liabilities will come on to the public sector balance sheet depends on decisions over classification yet to be taken by the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). On 16 October 2008 the ONS made an announcement on the process—see:

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, as the Chancellor set out in his statement the House on 13 October 2008 any additional borrowing and debt incurred by the Government is either in return for assets, charged at commercial rates or in the form of a temporary loan to the banks. So the most appropriate measures of Government borrowing and debt to judge the position of the public finances will be ones that exclude the Government's stake in the banking sector.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department last reviewed the notional cost of capital used in departmental resource accounts; what recent estimate he has made of the difference between the notional cost and the actual cost of financing Government borrowing; and when he plans next to review the notional cost used. [227912]

Yvette Cooper: The cost of capital charge in departmental resource accounts is set at the social time preference rate. This is the rate at which society values spending in the present compared to the future. It was set in 2003 and operation of the charge is kept under review.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many repossessions have been *(a)* sought and *(b)* secured by Northern Rock in each (i) week and (ii) month since May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [227726]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 728W.

Shipping: Pay

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the average financial effect on seafarers if the seafarers' earnings deduction is removed; [228223]

(2) if he will review the decision of HM Revenue and Customs to remove the seafarers' earnings deduction. [228224]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is not removing seafarers' earnings deduction (SED). Rather HMRC will revise its guidance on SED to reflect a decision made by the Special Commissioners, an independent appellate body, in the case of Torr and Others *v.* CIR (SpC679). The great majority of seafarers who claim SED will not be affected by this decision.

I am aware of the concerns raised by the Special Commissioners decision in this case, which centred on whether the vessel on which the appellants performed their duties was a ship or an 'offshore installation' within the meaning of the legislation. The Special Commissioners decided it had been operating as an offshore installation, and refused the appellants' claims to SED.

Broadly speaking, an offshore installation is a vessel that is engaged in exploiting mineral resources and is not mobile while doing so.

HMRC has written to tax practitioners about this decision and will discuss implementation with interested stakeholders before the revised guidance is issued.

Tax Havens

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking in association with his international counterparts to extend financial regulation to tax havens. [227967]

Ian Pearson: The Government's policy is to encourage all offshore financial centres to meet the highest standards of regulation and supervision, and to comply with international initiatives to eliminate unfair tax practices. To this end the Government have been working with international organisations such as the Financial Stability Forum, the Financial Action Task Force, the OECD, and also with EU partners.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the proposed new aviation duty on *(a)* regional airports and *(b)* regional economies related to them. [228403]

Angela Eagle: I refer to the answer I gave to my hon. Friends the Members for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn) and for Newcastle Upon Tyne, North (Mr. Henderson) on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1008W.

VAT: Imports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between HM Revenue and Customs, Guernsey Post and the Government of Guernsey which establishes the conditions for participation in the scheme to allow low value consignment relief from value added tax for imports of products to the United Kingdom from Guernsey; and what assessment he has made of the applicability of that scheme to products which *(a)* contain illegal ingredients and *(b)* about which claims are made which would be illegal were the products to have been placed on the United Kingdom market; [227746]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between HM Revenue and Customs, Jersey Post and the Government of Jersey which establishes the conditions for participation in the scheme to allow value consignment relief from value added tax for imports of products to the United Kingdom from Jersey; and what assessment he has made of the applicability of that scheme to products which *(a)* contain illegal ingredients and *(b)* about which claims are made which would be illegal were the products to have been placed on the United Kingdom market. [227747]

Mr. Timms: The Memorandum of Understanding with Jersey and Guernsey is currently under review. The MoU establishes an administrative arrangement for import VAT to be collected at the point of sale by the Guernsey postal authorities rather than at import into the UK.

Companies exporting to the UK from Guernsey include the import VAT in their charges to the customer and pass it on to the Guernsey postal authorities, who in turn pay it to HM Treasury.

This arrangement is separate from the low value consignment relief rules, which are set out in EU legislation and transposed into UK law as the Value Added Tax (Imported Goods) Relief (Amendment) Order 1995.

This provides relief from import VAT on consignments of goods not exceeding £18 in value. No customs duty is due on goods imported into the UK from the Channel Islands because, although the Islands are outside the EU for fiscal purposes, they are members of the EU Customs Union.

All imports from the Channel Islands are subject to the standard Customs checks for illegal goods, irrespective of whether they have been imported under the low value consignment relief and/or pre-payment of VAT arrangements.

Working Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of those eligible for the child care element of the working tax credit received it in each year since it was introduced. [228967]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the average number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit are provided in table 2.4 of the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised annual awards", for each relevant year. These are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personaltax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Information on the total number of families eligible for the child care element is not available.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 22 October 2008

WALES

Economic Stability and Business Growth

8. **John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister on economic stability and business growth in Wales. [227714]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with the First Minister on the economy. Working in close partnership, the UK Government and the Welsh Assembly Government are doing all we can to help Welsh businesses and households through the financial difficulties they may face.

Promoting Welsh Food

9. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will hold discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on policies to promote Welsh food in England; and if he will make a statement. [227715]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend and I hold regular meetings with Assembly Ministers on a wide range of issues, including food promotion.

The Welsh Assembly Government already have a number of successful initiatives promoting the best of Welsh food in the UK and abroad.

2012 Olympics

10. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister on Wales's contribution to the 2012 Olympics. [227716]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State meets with the First Minister regularly discussing a wide range of issues, including the Olympics and Wales' large potential contribution to its success.

Welfare Reform

11. **Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on co-operation between the Department for Work and Pensions and the Welsh Assembly Government on welfare reform projects in Wales. [227717]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues including welfare reform.

There is good co-operation. Recently Welsh Assembly Government colleagues held a consultation event in Wales on welfare reform, which was supported by both the Assembly's Deputy Skills Minister and myself.

Health Services

12. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the use of health services in Wales by patients resident in England. [227718]

Mr. David: Wales Office Ministers have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues, including health.

The Welsh Affairs Committee interim report acknowledges that cross border patient flow is both inevitable and natural if patients are to access the care they need.

All Wales Convention

13. **Mr. Hain** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the All Wales Convention. [227719]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been following the Convention's work, in discussions with Welsh Ministers and others. It has a key role in assessing public support for the transfer of full lawmaking powers, and I will be interested in seeing its conclusions.

UK Banks

14. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the exposure of Welsh taxpayers to the liabilities of UK banks. [227721]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have had no such discussions. We in Wales do not stand alone in the current financial turmoil—this is a global crisis, requiring co-ordinated global action. The UK led the way in re-capitalising and strengthening the banks, and now the Europeans and Americans are following our lead. Ultimately the re-capitalisation of the banks is an investment, and the shares acquired will be sold off to the benefit of the taxpayer in the long term.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within his Department; and what use has been made of that information. [228552]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has not gathered information relating to employees with mental illnesses. Wales Office staff are recruited as existing civil servants, and their home employers (Ministry of Justice and Welsh Assembly Government) are responsible for collecting this information.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Homophobia: Crime

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what training is provided to members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in dealing with homophobic crime cases. [228393]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report*.

Magilligan Port

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what the security status is of Magilligan Port; and what consideration has been given to designating it an international port for security purposes; [226866]

(2) what factors were taken into account when deciding to increase the security arrangements on the local river ferry between Magilligan and Greencastle; and what consideration was made of the general security situation when taking that decision. [226946]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Magilligan Point ferry terminal operates an international ferry route to the Republic of Ireland. The terminal facility is therefore subject to security requirements set by the Department for Transport consistent with all port facilities in the UK servicing international ferry routes as required by European Commission Regulation No. 725/2004. Limavady borough council is responsible for implementing security at the terminal. A recent Department for Transport security inspection of the terminal highlighted some areas for improvement. In response to the Department's observations the council has decided to implement enhanced security measures on a temporary basis to serve as a training measure for security staff at the port. The terminal will revert to standard security measures once the necessary training has been completed.

Restorative Justice

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which restorative justice groups have been approved by the Northern Ireland Office; where those groups are located; and which groups have subsequently fulfilled all the criteria required of them. [227995]

Paul Goggins: A list of accredited community-based restorative justice schemes is maintained by the Secretary of State and is available on the NIO website. 15 schemes have been accredited under the Protocol for Community-based Restorative Justice (CBRJ) Schemes to date. They are:

East Belfast Alternatives, East Belfast;
Greater Shankill Alternatives, West Belfast;
North Belfast Alternatives, North Belfast;
North Down Alternatives, Bangor;
Northern Ireland Alternatives Central Office, West Belfast;
Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) Central Office, West Belfast;
CRJI Colin, Belfast;
CRJI Falls, Belfast;
CRJI Greater Andersonstown, Belfast;
CRJI Upper Springfield, Belfast;
CRJI Derry Head Office, Derry;
CRJI Ballymagroarty, Derry;
CRJI Brandywell, Derry;
CRJI Creggan, Derry; and
CRJI Shantallow, Derry.

All of these accredited schemes have fulfilled the stringent requirements of the CBRJ Protocol, as confirmed by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate prior to being considered for accreditation. Schemes' fulfilment of the requirements of the protocol will continue to be monitored through the scrutiny mechanisms described in the published protocol.

Young Offenders

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of 16 to 25-year-olds in Northern Ireland who have been through the criminal justice system were not in employment, education or training in each of the last three years. [228237]

Paul Goggins: The data requested are not available. Court conviction datasets do not contain specific background information in relation to offenders' employment, education or training.

DEFENCE

Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to support the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence by signing a memorandum of understanding with the Centre; and if he will make a statement. [229147]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 677W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox), and on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 267W, to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies).

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Broadband: Rural Areas

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to encourage a competitive broadband market in rural areas, with specific reference to North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [226667]

Ian Pearson: The Government set a target for the UK to have the most extensive and competitive broadband market in the G7 by the end of 2005. This objective was achieved with over 99 per cent. of UK households connected to a broadband enabled exchange and around 50 per cent. also having access to broadband through the cable network.

On 17 October the Government launched a programme of work for Digital Britain. Reporting in the spring, it aims to capture the opportunities these technologies offer for every business in the UK economy and for people's quality of life, and to advance our standing as a world leader in these industries. One strand of this work will examine how we can maximise broadband development to enhance participation and levels of service across the UK.

The regional development agency continues to help address broadband supply in both North and South Yorkshire by providing funding to both the North Yorkshire net (NYNet) and South Yorkshire Digital Region projects.

In addition, Ofcom is currently carrying out a review of the ex-ante regulation imposed on BT and KCOM in certain leased lines markets in the UK with a view to updating it to reflect the perceived changes in market conditions. They are due to publish their final statement shortly.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227473]

Ian Pearson: The Department has not held any citizens' juries since July 2007.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to promote the interests of UK manufacturers of specialist food supplements and herbal remedies within the European Union. [227891]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The interests of United Kingdom manufacturers of specialist food supplements are being represented as part of working group discussions and bilateral meetings between the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and their counterparts in other member states.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has been running an extensive programme to manage the regulatory impact of the traditional herbal registration scheme. This programme, which includes individual company meetings held free of charge to help companies progress their plans to register products, is contributing to the steady expansion in the number of applications made and registrations granted under the scheme in the United Kingdom. Where companies have acquired successful experience of the scheme, they may wish to take up opportunities to submit applications to register products in other member states of the European Union.

There are no current plans for Health Ministers to meet with the food supplements industry. The FSA meets regularly with the food supplements industry to discuss issues relating to food supplements, including the work on setting maximum levels.

We have been advised by the FSA that member states were not consulted by the European Commission before the commencement of the Commission's impact assessment exercise in summer 2008. The FSA has met with the contractor appointed by the European Commission to carry out the work and provided details of United Kingdom stakeholders who could provide the data on the food supplements which are currently being marketed.

The FSA has not made an assessment of the options put forward in the European Commission's impact assessment exercise and their impact on specialist manufacturers and retailers and consumer choice. An assessment of the likely impact will be made when the specific levels being proposed by the European Commission are available. These will be set out in European Commission proposals, which are currently expected in January 2009, on which the FSA will consult fully.

In advance of the Commission publishing its proposals, an ad hoc technical working group comprising a small number of member states has been established which met for the first time on 15 October 2008. A further technical working group meeting has been suggested for late November 2008 and it is envisaged that the outputs of these meetings will then be reported back to all member states at a full working group meeting, a date for which is yet to be advised.

A meeting was held on 11 April 2008 between officials from the Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man Governments and those of the FSA, MHRA and Ministry of Justice. Officials representing the Government of Jersey indicated that a major update of food safety legislation was under way in Jersey and that both the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation are to be implemented as part of this exercise. Discussions at official level regarding the implementation of the legislation in Guernsey are ongoing.

The MHRA has written to the Government of Jersey to begin discussions with them on the implementation of the Medicines Directive 2001/83/EC. During 2007 and 2008, the MHRA has had written discussions and a series of meetings with the Government of Guernsey over the implementation of the Medicines Directive. The MHRA believes that Guernsey's proposed medicines law will receive Royal Assent in the near future. The MHRA will continue to assist the Government of Guernsey in the development of the additional legislation required for implementation of the Medicines Directive.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Official Report

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 858W, on Official Report, what the average cost was of making all the forms of the Official Report available in printed form per sitting day in the 10 financial years before 2007-08. [229066]

Nick Harvey: The financial information required to calculate figures for the whole period requested has not been retained. The average costs, to the nearest £1,000 in cash terms, for previous financial years for which information is available are as follows:

	Average cost (£)
2006-07	22,000
2005-06	18,000
2004-05	19,000
2003-04	17,000
2002-03	17,000
2001-02	15,000
2000-01	14,000

Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many House of Commons security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each year since 2001. [228666]

Nick Harvey: The following table captures the available data on passes reported lost and stolen:

	October to December 2007	*January to October 2008*
Lost	5	16
Stolen	0	3
Total	5	19

These data have been taken from the new pass system introduced in summer 2007. Data prior to October 2007 are in an old software system, not easily accessible at present. Work is under way to try and make the old system compatible with the new so that historic information can be easily retrieved.

As I told the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1453W, the number of parliamentary photo-identity passes that had been lost or stolen in the 24 months leading up to June 2008 was 31 and that 313 had been reported missing over the past nine years.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the Government's policy is on whether the EU should reduce emissions by 30 per cent. against 1990 levels if an international agreement on climate change is reached. [227839]

Joan Ruddock: As and when a comprehensive international agreement on climate change is reached, the EU (and the Government) is committed to reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent. against 1990 levels. The Government believe that a quick and transparent process for scaling up the EU emissions reduction target from 20-30 per cent. in the event of such an international commitment is essential.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many citizens' juries her Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what was discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227466]

Hazel Blears: In December 2007 Communities and Local Government held two citizens' juries jointly with the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills, in London and in Hull, to discuss how targeted provision of teaching English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) can help build community cohesion. The events cost £69,965 split equally between CLG and DIUS. I attended the jury in London on behalf of CLG and my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) attended on behalf of DIUS. 17 members of the public attended in Hull and 18 in London.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) her Department and its predecessors and (ii) agencies sponsored by her Department in each year since 2001. [228941]

Mr. Khan: DCLG was formed on 5 May 2006 and this reply also relates to its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. However, records for security passes reported as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in the London HQ buildings are not available before 2005.

London HQ buildings:

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Lost	43	69	31	18
Stolen	7	6	0	3

The Government office for west midlands reissued all of their passes on 1 January 2008. No records have been retained about losses up to that date.

Government offices for the regions

		GOL	*GOE*	*GOEM*	*GONE*	*GOSE*	*GOSW*	*GONW*	*GOYH*	*GOWM*
2001	Lost	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	Lost	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	Lost	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0

		Government offices for the regions								
		GOL	*GOE*	*GOEM*	*GONE*	*GOSE*	*GOSW*	*GONW*	*GOYH*	*GOWM*
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	Lost	0	0	0	3	0	0	24	0	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	Lost	29	0	0	5	1	0	15	0	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	Lost	30	0	0	2	1	0	10	0	1
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	Lost	20	0	0	12	1	0	6	2	1
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
2008	Lost	24	4	4	7	0	10	7	10	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0

		CLG agencies					
		Hemmel	*AHH*	*FSC Morton*	*FEU Morton*	*PINS*	*QEII CC*
2001	Lost	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	Lost	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	Lost	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	Lost	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	Lost	8	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	Lost	4	0	0	0	40	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	Lost	1	1	0	0	79	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	Lost	0	0	0	0	67	0
	Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0

None of the passes for the HQ Buildings, the GOs or agencies have the name or address of the building, Department or organisation to which it refers, on them. The Department assesses all cases of lost or stolen passes to determine any increased vulnerability to security. Additional controls and procedures are introduced as necessary.

Housing Companies: Reorganisation

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of amalgamating the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships; and how much and what proportion of these costs she expects to be expended on *(a)* consultancy, *(b)* IT and temporary staff costs, *(c)* communications work, *(d)* redundancy and *(e)* re-hire payments. [228501]

Mr. Iain Wright: The costs of the Homes and Communities Agency are set out in the Housing and Regeneration Bill—Impact Assessment. This states that the one-off cost of setting up the Homes and Communities Agency will be £20 million over three years.

It is not possible at this time to provide a reliable estimate of the proportions of the expected cost that will be devoted to the categories identified.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the national level of housing revenue account subsidy was in each year since 1990; and what it is projected to be in each of the next 15 years, using the same assumptions which have been made for the housing revenue account pilot opt-outs. [228876]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table showing the national level of housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy from 1995-96 to 2006-07 (the last year for which audited data is available) is as follows.

The table shows the value of the 'bricks and mortar' element of HRA subsidy. Prior to 2004-05, HRA subsidy also contained a rent rebate element. This is omitted from the table to ensure consistency with post 2004-05 data. Prior to 2004-05, surpluses in the 'bricks and mortar' element were applied to the cost of rent rebates for local authorities.

	HRA Subsidy (£)
1995-96	-390,050,431
1996-97	-563,028,455
1997-98	-668,307,497
1998-99	-869,992,311
1999-2000	-1,040,869,030
2000-01	-1,123,786,228
2001-02	351,105,009
2002-03	252,059,142
2003-04	191,153,240
2004-05	77,995,764
2005-06	249,427,865
2006-07	133,943,708

Pre 1995-96 data are available only at disproportionate cost.

As part of the self financing modelling exercise some broad forecasts of future HRA subsidy entitlement were generated at a national level. These forecasts were based upon a number of assumptions about factors such as the number of dwellings in the HRA subsidy system, interest rates and rates of inflation. The forecasts are highly sensitive to changes in any of these assumptions. They are based upon the 2007-08 HRA subsidy system.

The forecast subsidies generated were as follows:

	HRA subsidy (£ million)
2008-09	-194
2009-10	-216
2010-11	-303
2011-12	-421
2012-13	-424
2013-14	-376
2014-15	-398
2015-16	-434
2016-17	-476
2017-18	-543
2018-19	-611
2019-20	-680
2020-21	-750
2021-22	-822
2022-23	-894

Housing: Disadvantaged

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* council houses, *(b)* houses rented by registered social landlords, *(c)* private rented houses in multiple occupation and *(d)* private rented houses which are not in multiple occupation there are in (i) the most deprived ward and (ii) the most deprived lower-layer super output area in (A) Barry, (B) Blackpool, (C) Bognor Regis, (D) Bournemouth, (E) Bridlington, (F) Brighton, (G) Burnham on Sea, (H) Clacton, (I) Conwy, (J) Dawlish/Teignmouth, (K) Deal, (L) Eastbourne, (M) Exmouth, (N) Falmouth, (O) Folkestone/Hythe, (P) Great Yarmouth, (Q) Hastings/Bexhill, (R) Ilfracombe, (S) Isle of Wight, (T) Lowestoft, (U) Minehead, (V) Morecambe/Heysham, (W) Newquay, (X) Penzance, (Y) Porthcawl, (Z) Rhyl, (AA) Scarborough, (BB) Sidmouth, (CC) Skegness, (DD) Southend on Sea, (EE) Southport, (FF) St Ives, (GG) Swanage, (HH) Thanet, (II) Torbay, (JJ) Weston super Mare, (KK) Weymouth, (LL) Whitby, (MM) Whitley Bay, (NN) Whitstable/Herne Bay and (OO) Worthing. [228598]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not available centrally.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* licensed and *(b)* unlicensed houses of multiple occupation there are in (i) Barry, (ii) Blackpool, (iii) Bognor Regis, (iv) Bournemouth, (v) Bridlington, (vi) Brighton, (vii) Burnham on Sea, (viii) Clacton, (ix) Conway, (x) Dawlish/Teignmouth, (xi) Deal, (xii) Eastbourne, (xiii) Exmouth, (xiv) Falmouth, (xv) Folkestone/Hythe, (xvi) Great Yarmouth, (xvii) Hastings/Bexhill, (xviii) Ilfracombe, (xix) Isle of Wight, (xx) Lowestoft, (xxi) Minehead, (xxii) Morecambe/Heysham, (xxiii) Newquay, (xxiv) Penzance, (xxv) Porthcawl, (xxvi) Rhyl, (xxvii) Scarborough, (xxviii) Sidmouth, (xxix) Skegness, (xxx) Southend on Sea, (xxxi) Southport, (xxxii) St Ives, (xxxiii) Swanage, (xxxiv) Thanet, (xxxv) Torbay, (xxxvi) Weston super Mare, (xxxvii) Weymouth, (xxxviii) Whitby, (xxxix) Whitley Bay, (xl) Whitstable/Herne Bay and (xli) Worthing. [228632]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not available centrally.

Local Authorities: Mortgages

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she next plans to review the standard national rate for local authority mortgages. [228805]

Mr. Iain Wright: The standard national rate is subject to frequent review as required by section 438 and Schedule 16 of the Housing Act 1985. We will be reviewing the rate in the next few weeks.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 982W, on local authorities: mortgages, which building society lending rates are used for the purpose of reviewing the standard national rate (SNR) for local authority mortgages; and what those rates were at the time of the last review of the SNR. [228899]

Mr. Iain Wright: The names and lending rates of the societies which were used in the 1 September review process are detailed in the following table.

Building society	*Base percentage Standard Variable Rate*
Nationwide	6.80
Yorkshire	6.90
Britannia	7.20
Coventry	7.20
Skipton	6.50
Chelsea	6.70

By means of a weighting mechanism to take account of the mortgage market share of the building societies, the standard national rate is calculated using their standard variable rates.

The standard national rate for local authority mortgages was last reviewed on 1 September 2008 and remained at 6.89 per cent.

Local Government: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the implications of the deficit in the Local Government Contributory Pension Fund. [229201]

John Healey: As required by the regulations which govern the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales, the scheme was actuarially valued as at 31 March 2007 and the employer contribution rates established for the financial period 2008-09 to 2010-11 ensure that the scheme remains solvent. Under the terms of the scheme, members' pension payments are guaranteed.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to reply to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 4 September 2008 on Mr. Paul Carlier of Little Waltham, Chelmsford. [229064]

Mr. Iain Wright: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 20 October 2008.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer options for providing support for homebuyers in negative equity as a result of the mis-selling of mortgages by banks. [227927]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 2 September, as part of a wider package of new measures designed to meet current challenges in the housing market, the Government announced a mortgage rescue scheme which will help up to 6,000 households who would otherwise be repossessed stay in their home. The Government will fund registered social landlords to buy all or part of the house, which the homeowner will then be able to rent back at a subsidised rate. This will be fully operational from January 2009.

The Government are committed to providing a wide range of support, advice and assistance to homeowners facing difficulties in the current economic circumstances. The situation will continue to be kept under active review.

Rates and Rating: Credit Unions

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had on a review of the liability of credit unions for business rates; and what consideration she has given to extending the dispensation currently applied to charities to credit unions and other social enterprises. [227728]

John Healey: No such discussions have taken place as credit unions and other social enterprises can already qualify for mandatory charity relief if they are specifically established for charitable purposes and use the property in question in the exercise of these purposes. To qualify for discretionary relief the social enterprise must be non-profit making and the property it occupies used for social, philanthropic, educational or religious purposes.

TREASURY

Banks: Compensation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that the banking rescue package will not affect levels of expenditure on public services in the short, medium and long term. [226266]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor of the Exchequer will provide an update on the Government's fiscal position in the autumn pre-Budget report.

Child Benefit

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, on child benefit, what percentage of callers to the child benefit helpline were automatically informed to call later by answer message because the lines were too busy in 2007-08. [226660]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: During 2007-08, the busy message was played to 29 per cent. of call attempts to the child benefit helpline.

Service levels on the child benefit helpline have been affected over the last 12 months by a variety of different factors. These include increased customer demand and longer call handling times following the introduction of enhanced security arrangements after HMRC's data loss in 2007. When the number of callers is high, as it has been on the child benefit helpline, calls are more likely to go unanswered with a higher number of busy messages played. Customers who cannot get through on their first attempt often use the rapid redial facility on their telephone to make numerous successive calls and this rapidly increases the number of unanswered calls and busy messages.

HMRC's latest contact centre customer survey, covering March to August 2008, shows that over 91 per cent. of callers were satisfied with the service they received from the child benefit helpline. The Department has, however, developed plans to further improve the service provided on the helpline.

These plans include allocation of an extra 50 advisers to the helpline by the end of the year; improving links between contact centres and the child benefit processing office to provide a better customer service; providing a set of automated messages on the helpline to enable callers to get basic relevant information about child benefit without needing to wait for or talk to an adviser and directing customers to the newly improved child benefit content on the HMRC website, which includes an improved payment date tracker. These measures will reduce the number of busy messages played to customers and enable more customers to speak to an adviser more quickly, should they need to.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of time taken to process a new application for child benefit was in the latest period for which figures are available; and what steps he is taking to expedite the process. [228032]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 20 October 2008]*: In 2007-08, 64.5 per cent. of claims were processed in five working days, and 94 per cent. in 36 working days. There is on average four days between processing and paying.

For 2008-09, HM Revenue and Customs aim to pay 69 per cent. of new child benefit claims in nine working days and all new claims in 20 calendar days. This is the first year that this target has been in place. Performance outturn for 2008-09 will be published in due course.

HMRC continually reviews its processes to improve timeliness of payment to customers.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228426]

Angela Eagle: Details of the Department's spending on upgrading IT equipment is shown in notes 11.1 and 12 of the annual Resource Accounts. Copies of the Treasury's Resource Accounts are available on the Treasury's website

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/resource_accounting_and_budgeting_about_us.htm.

HC 1344 covers 2005-06, HC 518 2006-07 and HC 539 2007-08.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [229134]

Angela Eagle: The Department does not include any non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

Equitable Life

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when in autumn 2008 the Government plan to respond to the report of the Parliamentary Ombudsman on Equitable Life. [228659]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1000W.

Financial Services: EU Action

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the UK may withdraw unilaterally from the Mark to Market rules under European Union legislation. [226867]

Ian Pearson: UK groups are required to use International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), including those relating to valuation, when preparing their accounts. IFRS are set by the International Accounting Standards Board and adopted for use inside the EU under the relevant legislation by the member states of the EU and the European Parliament.

HBOS: Lloyds TSB

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to ensure that as many HBOS employees in Halifax as possible retain their jobs as part of the conditions of the pending merger of HBOS with Lloyds TSB. [225206]

Ian Pearson: It is in everyone's interest—customers, shareholders and employees—that the future of the firm is secure. As this is a commercial transaction, it will be for Lloyds TSB to determine the future of the company but the Government will remain in contact with the firms about this issue. Recognising the challenges that the region faces as a result of recent changes to local banking services, the Chancellor has asked Yorkshire Forward to convene a group to conduct rapid assessment on what is needed to support local jobs.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the revenue recovered by HM Revenue and Customs Compliance and Enforcement Unit in each year since 2003-04. [224947]

Mr. Timms: The results of tackling non-compliance are primarily measured by additional liabilities assessed, and these are shown in the following table for both direct tax and VAT.

£ million

	Direct tax	*VAT*	*Total*
2003-04	3,957	2,965	6,922
2004-05	5,234	2,734	7,969
2005-06	5,366	3,762	9,128
2006-07	9,167	3,577	12,744

2007-08 figures are currently being finalised.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Mr. Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average cost to HM Revenue and Customs is of processing a tax return; and how many tax returns would be obviated by increasing the thresholds in line with rental inflation; [227601]

(2) what the annual cost was of providing the rent-a-room tax scheme at the current threshold of £4,250 in each of the last five years; and what the annual cost would be of indexing the rent-a-room threshold in line with rental inflation from the £4,250 base set in 1997-98. [227602]

Mr. Timms: The average paybill cost of processing an income tax self assessment return in 2007-08 was £15.72. If the rent-a-room threshold had been increased in line with inflation since 1997-98 up to 5,000 taxpayers would have been taken out of self assessment.

The estimated tax cost of exempting income under the rent-a-room scheme is published in table A3.1 of Budget 2008.

The annual cost of increasing the rent-a-room threshold in line with rental inflation from the level of £4,250 set for 1997-98 is around £5 million.

Working Tax Credit

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of families eligible for the childcare element of the working tax credit claimed it in each year for which figures are available. [228367]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

However, estimates of the average number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit are provided in Table 2.4 of the HMRC publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised annual awards', for each relevant year. These are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants from her Office in the last 12 months. [228776]

Chris Bryant: Nothing.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Leader of the House how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in her Office in each year since 2001. [228894]

Chris Bryant: Due to the machinery of government changes, the Leader of the House of Commons office now forms part of the Cabinet Office. Information on the loss of security passes can be provided only from June 2006 to present. In this time only one security pass has been reported lost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the incidence was of bovine tuberculosis in each county of England and Wales in each non-bovine species in each year since 1997. [227302]

Jane Kennedy: It is not possible to give accurate figures for the incidence of TB caused by Mycobacterium bovis in non-bovine domestic animals in England and Wales. This is because there is no active surveillance programme in place and no systematic, random surveys of TB have ever been conducted in these species. Furthermore, the identification of *M. bovis* in tissues and clinical samples from all mammals (excepting man) and the detection of suspect TB lesions in farmed and companion mammals (other than cattle and farmed deer), became notifiable only in February 2006.

Data can be provided only on the number of *M. bovis* isolations from notified suspect clinical and post-mortem cases of TB arising in domestic animals other than cattle. For these reasons, and because these cases came from a small non-random sample of all the susceptible animals in England and Wales, these data are not an exact reflection of the true incidence of bovine TB in domestic animals.

	Animal and County
1997	Nil
1998	Domestic cat (2) Cornwall (1); Wiltshire (1)
1999	Llama (3) Gwent (3)
2000	Domestic cat (3) Herefordshire (2 Plus another for which we have no data on the location.)
2001	Nil
2002	Cat (2) Gloucestershire (1). Wiltshire (1); Dog (1) Gloucestershire; Domestic Pig (1) Wiltshire Sheep (1) Wiltshire.
2003	Domestic pig (8) Herefordshire (3) and Devon (5); Alpaca (2) Gloucestershire (1); Somerset (1); Llama (1) Herefordshire.
2004	Domestic cat (6) South Gloucestershire (1); Cornwall (3); Somerset (1); Shropshire (1); Dog (1) North Wiltshire; Domestic Pig (1) Gloucestershire.; Alpaca (1) Devon; Sheep (3) (imported from N. Ireland)
2005	Domestic cat (13) Cornwall (2); Devon (1); Somerset (1); Gloucestershire. (1); Worcestershire (1); Staffordshire (1); Cheshire (1); East Sussex (1); Ceredigion (1); Powys (1); West Glamorgan (1); Lincolnshire (1); Domestic Pig (12) Cornwall (9 from the same farm); Worcestershire (2); Gloucestershire (1); Llama (1) Avon; Sheep (2) Gloucestershire (1); Worcestershire (1); Ferret (3) East Sussex (all 3 cases)
2006	Domestic cat (14) Avon (3); Gloucestershire. (3); Devon (2); Worcestershire (2); Staffordshire (1); Wiltshire (1); Shropshire (1); Pembrokeshire (1); Domestic pig (2) Gloucestershire (1); Monmouthshire (1); Farmed wild boar (2) Cornwall (same farm); Alpaca (1) East Sussex; Llama (8) Devon (all in llamas from the same premises)
2007	Domestic cat (15) Avon (1); Cornwall (1); Devon (4); Gloucestershire (1); Monmouthshire (1); Somerset (2); Shropshire (1); Wiltshire (2); Worcestershire (2); Dog (1) Rhondda Cynon Taff (South Wales); Domestic pigs(5) Shropshire (3), Somerset (1), Gloucestershire (1); Goat (2) both cases from the same farm in Wiltshire; Alpaca (4) Powys (2 from the same farm); Dorset (2 from same farm); Llama(16) Carmarthenshire (11 from the same premises); Devon (5 from the same premises).

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what factors underlay the decision to reduce the number of herds tested for bovine tuberculosis between January and June 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. [227297]

Jane Kennedy: There has been no deliberate decision by DEFRA to decrease the number of herds tested for bovine tuberculosis (TB) in 2008 compared to 2007.

The number of routine TB surveillance tests is determined on the basis of parish testing intervals, which are reviewed on an annual basis. In addition, further testing is generated as a result of new and ongoing TB incidents.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential for bovine tuberculosis to transfer between *(a)* badgers and humans, *(b)* badgers and companion animals, *(c)* cattle and humans and *(d)* cattle and companion animals. [227320]

Jane Kennedy: Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is primarily a respiratory disease in most mammalian species, however, the relative importance of different routes of transmission (respiratory, oral, cutaneous) among and between species is unknown.

The principal species affected by bovine TB in Great Britain are cattle and badgers. While small numbers of companion animal species and many wild animal species have been shown to be infected with bovine TB, most are spill-over hosts. There is some indirect evidence of transmission from spillover hosts though it is uncertain how often this is occurring.

The Health Protection Agency has lead responsibility for tuberculosis in humans and works closely with DEFRA where human cases of Mycobacterium bovis (*M. bovis*) infection are identified. The risk posed by bovine TB to human health from cattle, pets or wildlife is considered very low and the number of cases is not increasing. In 2006 there were 33 cases in the UK. Most cases seen today are attributable to infection picked up abroad or reactivation of infection in older people who contracted the infection before the introduction of milk pasteurisation. Despite the low risk there are robust controls in place to protect public health. These include regular testing of cattle herds and early removal of test reactors; cattle movement controls; a cattle tracing system; slaughterhouse inspections; controls on meat and milk; and occupational health controls. DEFRA works in liaison with a number of Government Departments including the Health Protection Agency, Department of Health, Food Standards Agency and Health and Safety Executive, to help protect the public from contracting infection caused by *M. bovis*.

Carbon Emissions: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 869W, on waste disposal: domestic waste, whether the work on estimating dioxin emissions from domestic burning is complete; and if he will place in the Library copies of the research reports on the topic to date. [224888]

Jane Kennedy: The work referred to is still ongoing. The results will be due later this year.

Departmental Research

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research that his Department has commissioned is being undertaken by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee; and if he will make a statement. [228474]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not routinely commission research from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) but, rather asks for advice. JNCC then commissions research that it believes is necessary to underpin this advice. Details of this research are available in the JNCC annual report and its planned research is contained in its Corporate Plan, both of which can be found on JNCC's website.

There is one exception however, in that JNCC is currently undertaking DEFRA commissioned research on the status of marine habitats and species as part of DEFRA's contract to JNCC to author chapters of 'Charting Progress 2'. This in turn is a contribution to the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy, as required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the levels of *(a)* deformity, *(b)* disability and *(c)* hereditary disease amongst (i) pedigree and (ii) other dogs; [227331]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of breeding practices on the welfare of pedigree dogs, with particular reference to consanguinity between breed pairs; [227332]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the rules and regulations of pedigree dog shows on the welfare of pedigree dogs; [227333]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effects of breed standards on the welfare of pedigree dogs; and if he will make a statement; [227334]

(5) what his policy is on the culling of pedigree dogs which do not meet breed standards; what estimate he has made of the number of pedigree dogs *(a)* culled and *(b)* neutered on such grounds in each of the last three years; and if he will bring forward legislative proposals to ban this practice; [227335]

(6) if he will bring forward legislative proposals to amend breed standards in order to reduce health problems and improve the welfare and life expectancy of pedigree dogs; [227336]

(7) if he will bring forward legislative proposals to ban *(a)* inbred dogs, *(b)* unhealthy dogs and *(c)* dogs with inherited diseases from being entered in pedigree shows; [227337]

(8) if he will introduce mandatory health checks for pedigree dogs as a condition of entry into pedigree shows; [227338]

(9) if he will review the standards and rules relating to breed showing for their implications for animal welfare; [227339]

(10) what recent representations he has received on inbreeding in pedigree dogs and its effects on animal welfare; and if he will make a statement. [228385]

Jane Kennedy: The Dogs Trust and the Kennel Club have jointly announced an independent and wide ranging review of dog breeding. I will shortly meet with representatives of these organisations to discuss the assistance that DEFRA can provide to the review.

Fishing: Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has information on the amount of fish caught by vessels from other EU member states within the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone and then discarded in EU member state waters in each year since 1997. [228475]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Information on the scale of such discards is not available.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 865W, on fisheries: quotas, whether the quota management change programme remains in existence following the Scottish Executive's withdrawal from it; and if he will make a statement. [228471]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The formal withdrawal by the Scottish Executive from the quota management change programme (QMCP) in September 2007 effectively brought about the end to this process.

DEFRA is considering the options on how best to take forward work on quota reform. This work will be done in close partnership with the devolved Administrations and in consultation with the industry. It will also need to be considered in the context of the common fisheries policy (CFP) reform agenda.

Government Decontamination Service: Manpower

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by the Government Decontamination Service, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* county of employment. [228526]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government Decontamination Service, which provides a UK wide service, has its office in Stafford, West Midlands. The 24.76 full-time equivalent staff, as at 20 October 2008, all work out of this office.

Hamford Water Estuary

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statutory obligations the Harwich Haven Authority has for the development or conservation of Hamford water estuary. [227309]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

None. Hamford water estuary lies outside the jurisdiction of the Harwich Haven Authority.

Marine Animals: Biodiversity

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of non-native invasive species identified in UK waters in each year since 1997; what types of non-native species were identified in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [228056]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department does not currently compile annual estimates of the number of non-native species identified in UK waters. However, under the Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain, we are commissioning a dedicated directory of information about presence and spread of non-native species in Great Britain. This will aim to collate information from surveillance and monitoring activity both terrestrially and in the marine area. Records of non-native species are also being collated on an all-Ireland basis.

Within the UK, recent audits of non-native species have been commissioned in England and Scotland.

In Scotland, an audit was conducted in 2001 and efforts since then have included co-ordination at the GB level and work by Scottish Natural Heritage on a Species Action Framework. This sets out a strategic approach to species management in Scotland and was based on a review of key priorities. The framework identified six invasive non-native species as the focus of new action for five years from 2007. Further details can be found at:

http://www.snh.org.uk/speciesactionframework/saf-list.asp#2

For England, a database of non-native species introductions was produced as part of an audit commissioned by Natural England; this extends up to 2005. It indicates that since 1997 two to three new species, on average, have been identified each year in marine and freshwater environments in England as shown in the following table. The majority of these new introductions have been animals and most have been found in the freshwater environment. Of these freshwater animals, three species have been identified as potentially invasive, while four of the marine animals have been similarly categorised.

Non-native aquatic species observed in the wild in England, 1997 to 2005[1]

Type	*Total number of species*	*Mean number of species per year*
Marine animal	6	0.9
Marine plants	1	0.1
Freshwater animal	11	1.6
Total	18	2.6

[1] *Source:*
Audit of non-native species in England. English Nature. ISSN 0967-876X.

Recreational Sea Angling Strategy

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his response is to the draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy; which policies in the strategy he plans to implement; whether he has a timetable for implementing the strategy; and if he will make a statement; [228472]

(2) what species will be covered by management plans introduced under the draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [228473]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Summary of Responses to the DEFRA consultation on a draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy will be published shortly, and will include a brief outline of the next steps. Revisions to the draft strategy are being made to reflect the results of the consultation, after which the revised draft will be discussed with key stakeholders. DEFRA intends to publish the revised strategy before the end of the year.

In advance of the publication of the revised strategy, revised management measures for sea bass, which is a prime sports fish for the sea angling sector, are under consideration. This involves a review of the 30 restricted areas in existence around the English coast to protect juvenile bass. The first stage of this process has just been completed, involving questionnaires being sent to Sea Fisheries Committees and the Marine Fisheries Agency in coastal regions of England, to identify whether amendments to the existing areas, or new areas, are needed. Full consultation with stakeholders will take place in the new year once the results of the first stage of the process have been assessed.

Special Areas of Conservation: EU Action

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the candidate special areas of conservation listed as the Dee, Humber and Severn estuaries have been formally adopted as such by the European Commission; and if he will make a statement. [228383]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Dee, Humber and Severn estuaries have not yet been formally adopted by the Commission as Sites of Community Importance. But we expect that process to be finalised shortly. My Department will then institute the necessary procedures to formally designate these sites as Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive.

Veterinary Services: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that the implementation of any recommendations emerging from the Hampton Review of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate does not lead to a diminution of the quality of support provided for the delivery of veterinary medicines. [226732]

Jane Kennedy: Recommendations relating to Hampton have as their objective more effective and efficient delivery of regulation and interactions with business. This is the basis behind the consultation on a possible structural merger involving the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

Warm Front Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the projected budget for Warm Front is for the next three years. [223899]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The projected Warm Front budget for the 2008-11 period is set at £874 million.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of ambulance handovers took more than *(a)* 15, *(b)* 30, *(c)* 45 and *(d)* 60 minutes in the last 12 months. [228276]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. The Department of Health expects ambulance trusts and acute trusts to work together and to share information to manage periods of high or unexpected demand effectively to prevent delays in patient handovers from occurring.

It is clearly important that patients are handed over to A and E as soon as possible after the ambulance arrives, and the A and E clock for the four-hour standard should start 15 minutes after the ambulance arrives regardless of whether the patient has been handed over or not. The Department continues to make clear to the NHS that local services need to ensure they have effective and efficient processes in place to deliver timely handover.

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital Trust: Cleaning Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on cleaning by the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital Trust in the latest period for which information is available. [227758]

Mr. Bradshaw: Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust have reported £6,224,771 through the annual estates related information collection as their cleaning services costs in 2006-07. These data are as provided by the NHS organisation. Further information is available on the following Hospital Estates and Facilities Statistics (hfes) website

www.hefs.ic.nhs.uk

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital Trust: Parking

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much revenue was raised in car parking by Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital Trust area in the latest period for which information is available. [227757]

Mr. Bradshaw: Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS trust has reported via the estates related information collection income of £748,000 for car parking for staff and visitors in 2006-07. These data are as provided by the NHS organisation. Further information is available on the following Hospital Estates and Facilities Statistics (hfes) website:

www.hefs.ic.nhs.uk

Carers

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the Government are taking to assist carers; [224601]

(2) how many people over the age of 60 were registered as carers in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [224603]

(3) how many people are in receipt of a carer's allowance in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England; and how many were in receipt of the allowance in each year since its inception. [224604]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

We are investing over £255 million to ensure that the Carers Strategy is implemented, this includes:

providing every carer with the opportunity to access comprehensive information when they need it;

making an additional £150 million available over two years for provision of breaks from caring;

pilots to look at how the national health service can better support carers and to improve the support offered by general practitioners. We will also pilot annual health checks for carers;

up to £38 million to enable carers to be better able to combine paid employment with their caring role through enhanced flexible working and skills training opportunities;

over £6 million in increased support for young carers in universal services, such as schools, targeted support and whole family support for carers;

training carers and so enable them both to strengthen them in their caring role and empower them in their dealings with care professionals. We will also train professionals across the board to provide better support for carers; and

we have made available £1.2 million to help ensure that key partners in the voluntary sector are able to develop their capacity and the capacity of local partners to implement the strategy.

To help carers who want to work part-time, we have increased the earnings limit in carer's allowance every year since 2001, and it now stands at £95 a week—almost double its pre-2001 level of £50.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226953]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State attended the following Christmas functions in 2007-08:

Tuesday 4 December 2007—looked into the Guardian Media Christmas Drinks Reception; and

Tuesday 11 December 2007—looked into Unite The Union Christmas Parliamentary Reception.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State hosted one Christmas function, a reception for journalists, on 17 December 2007. It was held in the Cathedral room in Richmond House and the cost was £1,079.30.

The Department does not collect information about the Christmas functions hosted or attended in 2007 or to be hosted or attended in 2008 by officials in the Department or officials in executive agencies and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Dental Services: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there are per 1,000 people in Hemel Hempstead constituency. [228365]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of dentists with national health service activity during the years ending 31 March 2007 and 31 March 2008 per 100,000 population is available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the report NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08. Information is available by strategic health authority and by primary care trust. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. The revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded through FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708.

Figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many agencies were sponsored by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228513]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department sponsored two agencies in 2007-08:

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency; and

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency

The Department sponsored four agencies in 1997-98:

Medical Devices Agency;

Medicines Control Agency;

NHS Estates Agency; and

NHS Pensions Agency

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff there are in each *(a)* directorate and *(b)* team in his Department, broken down by payband. [228275]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of full-time equivalent staff in each directorate are presented in the following tables. The figures are for 30 September 2008. They cover permanent and temporary civil servants, and people on loan or secondment into the Department. Most of the cases where the grade or directorate is unknown relate to secondees in, where our systems do not currently always record this. Information is not held centrally in a way that allows us to provide a team breakdown, and to assemble this information from local records would incur disproportionate cost.

Directorate	*Administrative officer*	*Executive officer*	*Higher executive officer*	*Senior executive officer*	*Fast stream*	*Grade 7*
Chief Nursing Officer	3.8	19.5	6.0	15.9	3.0	17.0
Commercial	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.0
Commissioning and System Management	4.0	29.5	16.0	23.0	9.0	34.2
Communications	2.8	9.4	22.0	30.7	1.0	23.0
Equality and Human Rights	0.0	2.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	2.0
Finance and Operations	46.1	131.7	112.5	94.1	12.0	83.6
Health Improvement and Protection	19.9	34.2	21.7	39.8	6.0	42.7
Office of the Chief Medical Officer	0.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.8
Office of the NHS Chief Executive	1.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
NHS Finance, Performance and Operations	8.9	23.0	26.6	32.4	5.4	61.9
NHS Medical	9.0	26.0	26.4	23.1	8.0	48.1

Directorate	*Administrative officer*	*Executive officer*	*Higher executive officer*	*Senior executive officer*	*Fast stream*	*Grade 7*
Policy and Strategy	4.0	16.0	15.0	10.0	12.0	25.4
Regional Public Health Groups	8.8	26.2	12.8	16.1	0.0	26.6
Research and Development	0.0	12.5	4.0	7.0	0.0	12.4
Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships	6.0	26.6	12.7	13.8	7.0	36.5
Workforce	4.0	29.1	20.0	27.9	3.0	28.6
Other	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	2.7
Grand total	120.3	393.8	301.6	340.7	69.4	452.3

Directorate	*Grade 6*	*Senior civil service*	*Special advisers*	*Unknown*	*Total*
Chief Nursing Officer	8.8	11.0	0.0	1.0	86.0
Commercial	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	8.0
Commissioning and System Management	21.0	27.0	0.0	2.0	165.6
Communications	6.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	100.5
Equality and Human Rights	1.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	11.9
Finance and Operations	38.9	41.8	2.0	3.0	565.7
Health Improvement and Protection	26.4	27.0	0.0	4.0	221.6
Office of the Chief Medical Officer	1.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	14.8
Office of the NHS Chief Executive	1.0	3.0	0.0	2.0	14.0
NHS Finance, Performance and Operations	17.7	18.8	0.0	0.0	194.7
NHS Medical	19.5	18.9	0.0	0.4	179.4
Policy and Strategy	22.8	26.8	0.0	1.0	133.0
Regional Public Health Groups	8.5	22.9	0.0	10.0	132.0
Research and Development	6.8	10.0	0.0	0.0	52.7
Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships	20.3	18.7	0.0	3.0	144.6
Workforce	17.9	14.0	0.0	1.0	145.5
Other	1.8	6.9	0.0	21.0	37.4
Grand total	221.3	257.4	2.0	48.4	2,207.3

Departmental Marketing

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 2006; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [226926]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following tables outline the specific costs relating to television, radio and print media for the complete financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Breakdown of campaign expenditure 2005-06

£ million

	TV	*Radio*	*Print media*
Department of Health Directories Advertising	0	0	0.07
DH Classified Advertising	0	0	0.05
Tobacco Education—Secondhand Smoke	5.29	1.65	0.67
Tobacco Education—Cessation	6.11	0.97	0.74
Tobacco Education—Support	0.55	0	0.85
E111 /EHIC Awareness	0	0	0.91
Flu Immunisation	0.78	0.24	0.60
NHS Classified/Recruitment advertising	0	0	0.13
NHS Careers Recruitment	0	0	0.22
Get the Right Treatment	0	0.24	0.24
Social Work	0	0.39	0.20
Social Care	1.09	0.37	0.36
Antibiotics Campaign	0	0	0.37
Drugs—Frank	0	0.18	0

Breakdown of campaign expenditure 2006-07

£ million

	TV	*Radio*	*Print media*
DH Directory Advertising	0	0	0.06
DH Classified Advertising	0	0	0.07
Tobacco Education—Motivation and Support	4.56	1.5	1.6
Tobacco Education—Secondhand Smoke	2.03	0.40	0.58
Flu Immunisation	0.56	0.04	0.47
Social Work	0	0.49	0.23
Social Care	0.80	0.27	0.52
Drugs - Frank	1.04	0.40	0
Sexual Health/Teenage Pregnancy	1.2	0.36	0.23
Child Immunisation	1.2	0.31	0.21
Hepatitis C	0	0.43	0.09
Tobacco—Smokefree	0	0	0.24
Health and Social Care Awards	0	0	0.04
Healthy Start	0	0	0.01
NHS Careers Graduate Recruitment	0	0	0.05

Breakdown of campaign expenditure 2007-08

£ million

	TV	*Radio*	*Print Media*
DH Directory Advertising	0	0	0.06
DH Classified Advertising	0	0	0.07
Tobacco Cessation (Support)	6.7	1.88	0.09
Tobacco—Smokefree	1.56	0.60	0.60
Flu Immunisation	0.56	0.04	0.31
Social Care	1.09	0,31	0.82
Drugs—Frank	1.04	0.40	0
Sexual Health	1.1	0.54	0.36

Breakdown of campaign expenditure 2007-08

			£ million
	TV	*Radio*	*Print Media*
Hepatitis C	0	0.71	0.56
NHS Careers Graduate Recruitment	0	0	0.05
NHS Injury Benefits Scheme	0	0	0.40
Antibiotics	0	0	0.39
Respiratory and Hand Hygiene	0	0	0.03
Alcohol Harm	0	0.31	0

These figures reflect media spend invoiced to the Department only. Some campaigns, (e.g. Frank and Alcohol) are paid for jointly by the Department and other Government Departments.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mobile telephones have been bought by his Department in each of the last five years. [227827]

Mr. Bradshaw: Vodafone are the supplier of all mobile devices to the Department and the figures in the table are supplied by that organisation. Their records start in 2005 and there is no information source that could specifically identify mobile telephones before that date. The information for 2008 is the figure as at the end of September.

	Total number of mobile telephones	*Of which: Blackberries*
2005	102	0
2006	542	270
2007	622	405
2008	501	349

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [229136]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is only available for the financial year 2008-09 and is shown in the following table. Figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not been agreed yet.

Non-departmental public body	*Total (£000)*
Healthcare Commission	59,369
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	2,406
Human Tissue Authority	1,346
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	2,129
General Social Care Council	10,687
Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board	2,708
Health Protection Agency	168,652
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control	18,600
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health	804
NHS Appointments Commission	4,115
Commission for Social Care and Inspection	53,750
Total	324,566

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228754]

Mr. Bradshaw: Seven people aged over 55 and one person aged over 60 were recruited by the Department in 2007-08. These represented, respectively, 3.7 per cent. and 0.5 per cent. of new recruits.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226800]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the costs of recruitment consultants and external recruitment advertising, and the names of recruitment consultants employed, are provided in the following tables.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

		£
	Recruitment consultants	*Recruitment advertising*
2007-08	206,233	176,935
2006-07	312,874	285,235
2005-06	477,301	142,907
2004-05	195,275	110,511
2003-04	142,485	51,783

Note:

Recruitment consultants employed were Accounting Additions, Armstrong Craven, Blackbridge, Brook Street, Crone Corkill, Crystal, Eames Jones and Judge Hawkings, Elite Associates, Ellwood and Atfield, Euromedia, Fusion IT, Hays, Hudson, Interim Performers, Kelly Services, Michael Page, Odgers Ray and Berndtson, Office Angels, Real IT Resourcing, Resource Innovations, Robert Half International, RSA, SynerGem, and Talentmark.

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency

		£
	Recruitment consultants	*Recruitment advertising*
2007-08	23,847	41,462
2006-07	33,558	30,394
2005-06	58,882	95,002
2004-05	27,183	23,170
2003-04	9,042	26,503

Notes:

Recruitment consultants employed were Capita, Hudson Global, RS Locums and tmp.worldwide.

Department of Health

		£
	Recruitment consultants	*Recruitment advertising*
2007-08	[1]243,681	[1]92,044
2006-07	[1]529,853	[1]109,574
2005-06	[1]518,041	[1]309,578

Department of Health

£

	Recruitment consultants	Recruitment advertising
2004-05	n/a	n/a
2003-04	n/a	n/a

[1] The figures for 2007-08 and 2006-07 cover staff in senior civil service payband 2 and above, and for 2005-06 cover staff in senior civil service payband 1 and above.

Notes:

1. For the majority of staff in the Department, recruitment costs are paid for locally by the business units that carried out the recruiting, and to gather the information from local sources would incur a disproportionate cost. Information for 2004-05 and 2003-04 is not available.

2. Recruitment consultants employed included Brook Street, Capita, CPG, Credentials Ltd. T/A Step Ahead, Employment Plus, Gatenby Sanderson, Hays, Hudson, Kelly Services, KMC International, KPMG, Odgers Ray and Berndtson, Office Angels, Reed, Russell Reynolds Associates, Saxton Bampfylde, Stopgap Limited, The Principle Partnership (UK) Ltd., TotalNRG, Veredus, Whitehead Mann, and Zygos Partnership.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229183]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the year from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008, 18 civil servants in the Department were recruited through the fast stream. Their average salary is £26,870.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many visits he has made abroad since taking up his position; and at what cost. [227765]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Cabinet Office collates returns for ministerial travel over the value of £500. Alan Johnson joined the Department of Health as Secretary of State in June 2007. The following table shows Cabinet Office data for the Secretary of State's overseas travel for the financial year 2007-08. Collections for the current financial year will be available at its close.

Dates	Minister	Destination	Purpose of Trip	Total cost including travel and accommodation (£)
20-21 November 2007	right hon. Alan Johnson MP	Brussels, Belgium	Meeting with commissioners	571
9-15 February 2008	right hon. Alan Johnson MP	Rio de Janeiro/ Sao Paulo, Brazil	Health fact finding	7,083

Health Services: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will visit Chorley and Preston hospitals and the new clinical access treatment centre in Chorley. [227031]

Ann Keen: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has no current plans to visit.

Health: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on developing the Picture of Health for South East London; and if he will make a statement. [228238]

Ann Keen: A Picture of Health considers options for the reconfiguration of four acute sites in South East London (Princess Royal University Hospitals Bromley, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, Queen Mary's, Sidcup and University Hospitals, Lewisham).

As a result, the local Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) comprising six interested borough councils and Kent county council has indicated its intention to formally refer at least some of the proposals to the Secretary of State.

A formal referral from Bexley council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (a contingent of the JOSC) made a formal referral in its own right on 28 August 2008 to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health. In the event the JOSC does not make a formal referral, the Bexley referral will still be considered by the Independent Review Panel.

Inspections

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inspectors were employed by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228093]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2007-08, the Department employed no inspectors with statutory powers. Details of the number of inspectors employed by the Department in 1997-98 would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Liver Diseases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of liver disease caused by excessive consumption of alcohol in the UK. [227780]

Dawn Primarolo: In June 2007, Safe.Sensible.Social.—The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy (which has already been placed in the Library) updated the 2004 National Alcohol Strategy and has a main aim to reduce drinking that is harmful to health.

The Department has put in place a new NHS vital signs indicator from April 2008 to measure change in the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions. Included within this, alcoholic liver disease was responsible for 14,668 hospital admissions in 2006-07. The number of admissions with a primary diagnosis of liver disease more than doubled between 1995-06 and 2006-07.

We expect that this vital signs indicator will encourage the national health service to identify those drinking above lower risk levels earlier. This approach, linked with advice and support from general practitioners or other healthcare staff, has been shown to be the best way of reducing the kind of 'everyday' harmful drinking that leads to health harm, including liver disease.

This NHS vital signs indicator is included in the Home Office Public Service agreement to reduce drug and alcohol harm and in the Department of Communities and Local Government list of indicators for local authorities and their partners.

Since the introduction of this indicator, this year more than 90 primary care trusts have developed plans to reduce alcohol-related admissions.

In May 2008, the Department launched a campaign on alcohol units and health, with a second burst of adverts running later this year. This campaign highlights how regularly exceeding daily guidelines on drinking increases the risk of liver disease.

We recognise that there is strong support for developing a national plan for liver disease and we are considering what the national health service needs to do over the next few years in order to address these pressures, and how this should be monitored. We shall announce next steps in due course.

Maternity Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations his Department has *(a)* received from and *(b)* made to local NHS organisations on delays in receiving additional funding for improving maternity care; [228173]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Macclesfield of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 783-84W, on maternity services, how much of the £330 million will be available in *(a)* the 2008-09 financial year and *(b)* each of the next two financial years. [228226]

Ann Keen: We have received a recent representation from the Royal College of Midwives. A national newspaper also made representations to finance officers of NHS trusts.

The £330 million is our national estimate of the total investment primary care trusts (PCTs) need to make over 2008-09 to 2010-11 to support delivery of the Maternity Matters strategy. This is being provided to the national health service as part of their overall PCT allocations. We then use the operating framework to set out our priorities for the NHS—including Maternity Matters. But how best to deliver those priorities, including how much resource to spend on different policy areas in each year, is a matter for the NHS to decide locally in the light of their local circumstances.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to protect patient records from data loss from *(a)* hospitals, *(b)* primary care trusts and *(c)* mental health trusts. [227787]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 354-55W.

MRSA: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients contracted MRSA in hospitals in West Hertfordshire in the last five years. [228363]

Ann Keen: The latest information available on the number of cases of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) reported to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) by West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust is shown in the following table.

	Number of reports to the HPA	*MRSA rate per 10,000 bed days*
April 2003 to March 2004	45	1.9
April 2007 to September 2007	37	1.8
October 2007 to March 2008	15	1.2
April 2008 to June 2008	4	0.7

NHS Identity: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department are working on the NHS Identity, broken down by payband. [228274]

Mr. Bradshaw: Three members of staff work on the NHS Identity at the following paybands: Grade 7, senior information officer and information officer.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which dates officials or Ministers in his Department met representatives of the pharmaceutical industry in the last six months to discuss *(a)* the recent increase in the practice of parallel trading and *(b)* a potential shortage of medicine stocks in the run-up to the introduction of the new drug-pricing regime in January 2009; and if he will place in the Library copies of the agenda and minutes of each meeting. [228269]

Dawn Primarolo: No meetings to discuss parallel trading have taken place. The availability of medicines in the run up to the introduction of the new Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme has been discussed as part of the confidential negotiations currently underway between the Government and the pharmaceutical industry. It would not be appropriate to release information on these confidential discussions.

NHS: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the implications of the deficit in the National Health Service Contributory Pension Fund. [229200]

Ann Keen: The NHS Pension Scheme is unfunded, so when benefits fall due for payment they are met from Government revenues. There is no actual pension fund or deficit. However, in any particular year, income from contributions from employers and employees is used to offset the costs of paying benefits to pensioners.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Local Involvement Networks have been established but are not yet operational. [227966]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Ophthalmology: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many opticians there are per 1,000 people in Hemel Hempstead constituency. [228366]

Ann Keen: The information is not held centrally. The Information Centre for health and social care will publish the number of General Ophthalmic Services ophthalmic practitioners per 100,000 population, as at 31 December 2007, in the report General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales, 31 December 2007. It is expected that the report will be published in November 2008, with information available by primary care trust and strategic health authority.

Primary Care Trusts

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list primary care trusts in the order of level of deprivation of the community each serves. [228106]

Dawn Primarolo: The Indices of Deprivation 2007 are the Government's official measure of multiple deprivation at small area level. The Index of Multiple Deprivation brings together 37 different indicators which cover specific aspects or dimensions of deprivation, covering income, employment, health and disability, education, training and skills, barriers to housing and services, crime and living environment.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation is a relative measure of deprivation and therefore cannot be used to say 'how much' more deprived area X is than area Y, though it can be used to say that area X is more deprived than area Y.

The following primary care trusts (PCTs) are listed according to the rank order given by the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007.

1. Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT
2. Liverpool PCT
3. City and Hackney Teaching PCT
4. Tower Hamlets PCT
5. Manchester PCT
6. Knowsley PCT
7. Newham PCT
8. Islington PCT
9. Middlesbrough PCT
10. Birmingham East and North PCT
11. Hull Teaching PCT
12. Blackpool PCT
13. Nottingham City PCT
14. Sandwell PCT
15. Salford PCT
16. Blackburn with Darwen PCT
17. Haringey Teaching PCT
18. Stoke on Trent PCT
19. Lambeth PCT
20. Leicester City PCT
21. Barking and Dagenham PCT
22. Hartlepool PCT
23. Greenwich Teaching PCT
24. Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT
25. Southwark PCT
26. Waltham Forest PCT
27. Wolverhampton City PCT
28. Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT
29. Sunderland Teaching PCT
30. Newcastle PCT
31. South Tyneside PCT
32. Lewisham PCT
33. Halton and St Helens PCT
34. South Birmingham PCT
35. Doncaster PCT
36. Oldham PCT
37. Barnsley PCT
38. Walsall Teaching PCT
39. Redcar and Cleveland PCT
40. Bolton PCT
41. Gateshead PCT
42. Brent Teaching PCT
43. North East Lincolnshire PCT
44. Camden PCT
45. Hammersmith and Fulham PCT
46. Wirral PCT
47. Coventry Teaching PCT
48. Sheffield PCT
49. Bristol PCT
50. East Lancashire Teaching PCT
51. Tameside and Glossop PCT
52. County Durham PCT
53. Wakefield District PCT
54. Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
55. Rotherham PCT
56. Derby City PCT
57. Torbay PCT
58. Westminster PCT
59. Enfield PCT
60. Plymouth Teaching PCT
61. Brighton and Hove City PCT
62. Kirklees PCT
63. Sefton PCT
64. Ealing PCT
65. Leeds PCT
66. Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT
67. Hastings and Rother PCT
68. Luton PCT
69. Peterborough PCT
70. Southampton City PCT
71. Portsmouth City Teaching PCT
72. Darlington PCT
73. Bassetlaw PCT
74. Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT
75. North Tees Teaching PCT
76. Dudley PCT
77. Kensington and Chelsea PCT
78. North Tyneside PCT
79. Hounslow PCT
80. Calderdale PCT
81. Telford and Wrekin PCT
82. North Lincolnshire PCT
83. Bury PCT
84. Croydon PCT
85. Cumbria Teaching PCT
86. Barnet PCT
87. Northumberland PCT
88. Central Lancashire PCT

89. Isle of Wight National Health Service PCT
90. Redbridge PCT
91. Wandsworth PCT
92. Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT
93. Medway PCT
94. Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT
95. Derbyshire County PCT
96. South West Essex PCT
97. Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT
98. North East Essex PCT
99. Hillingdon PCT
100. North Lancashire Teaching PCT
101. North Staffordshire PCT
102. Stockport PCT
103. Lincolnshire Teaching PCT
104. Warrington PCT
105. Herefordshire PCT
106. Devon PCT
107. Trafford PCT
108. Norfolk PCT
109. Western Cheshire PCT
110. South East Essex PCT
111. Swindon PCT
112. Shropshire County PCT
113. Bexley PCT
114. Solihull PCT
115. Havering PCT
116. Northamptonshire Teaching PCT
117. Somerset PCT
118. Harrow PCT
119. South Staffordshire PCT
120. East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT
121. Worcestershire PCT
122. Milton Keynes PCT
123. North Somerset PCT
124. Gloucestershire PCT
125. Warwickshire PCT
126. West Essex PCT
127. Bromley PCT
128. Sutton and Merton PCT
129. Dorset PCT
130. East Riding of Yorkshire PCT
131. Suffolk PCT
132. Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT
133. West Kent PCT
134. North Yorkshire and York PCT
135. West Sussex PCT
136. Kingston PCT
137. Berkshire East PCT
138. East and North Hertfordshire PCT
139. Bedfordshire PCT
140. Cambridgeshire PCT
141. Bath and North East Somerset PCT
142. Mid Essex PCT
143. West Hertfordshire PCT
144. Oxfordshire PCT
145. Berkshire West PCT
146. Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT
147. Hampshire PCT
148. Wiltshire PCT
149. South Gloucestershire PCT
150. Richmond and Twickenham PCT
151. Buckinghamshire PCT
152. Surrey PCT

Note:

The ranking is from most to least deprived IMD score, using the average of the scores for each component index of deprivation.

Source:

Index of Multiple Deprivation, Department of Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/

Social Workers: Manpower

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many social workers per head of the population *(a)* there were in 2007 and *(b)* there are in 2008. [227911]

Ann Keen: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collect and publish data relating to the number of social workers directly employed by social services departments within councils.

The most recently published figures for the number of whole-time equivalent social workers per 100,000 head of population was 87.6 in 2007 and 86.5 in 2006.

Data for 2008 are expected to be published in spring 2009.

Surgery

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many out of areas referrals were made by the Gateshead and South Tyneside Primary Care Trust because the surgery options sought by the patient were provided by a neighbouring primary care trust rather than Gateshead Primary Care Trust in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008 to date. [227619]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

Translation Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the value is of contracts awarded to K International by his Department for translation services in each year for which figures are available; [228044]

(2) what use NHS Direct makes of the services provided by K International set out in Government contract 05/GEN/25 on translation and interpretation provision; [228045]

(3) which *(a)* bodies within his Department and *(b)* NHS trusts use the translation and interpretation services set out in Government contract 05/GEN/25; and what the total cost is of these contracts. [228046]

Mr. Bradshaw: The net amount paid to K International by the Department between April 2004 and July 2008 was £78,504.92.

NHS Direct does not make use of the services provided by K International under the terms of Government contract 05/GEN/25 on translation and interpretation provision.

Information on which national health service trusts use the translation and interpretation services set out in the contract is not held centrally.

West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust: Cleaning Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust spent on cleaning in the latest period for which information is available. [228357]

Mr. Bradshaw: The annual Estates Related Information Collection reported £2,524,134 as West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust's cleaning services costs in 2006-07. Further information can be obtained via the following Hospital Estates and Facilities Statistics website:

www.hefsa.ic.nhs.uk

West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust: Parking

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much revenue was raised by West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust in car parking fees in the latest period for which information is available. [228356]

Mr. Bradshaw: In its annual report for 2007-08, published on 30 September 2008 and available on the trust website at:

http://www.westhertshospitals.nhs.uk/annualreport/0708/default.asp

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust reported that approximately £634,000 of income was generated by car parking charges for the financial year. No income was reported as income through the annual Estates Related Information Collection for car parking for staff and visitors at this trust in 2006-07.

West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust: General Practitioners

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many general practitioner practices there are in the West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust area; [228358]

(2) how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* allied health professionals work in general practitioner practices in primary care trusts in Hertfordshire. [228359]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of nurses and general practitioner (GP) practices can be found in the following table. However, information on allied healthcare professionals is not held centrally.

GP practices and practice nurses by East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and West Hertfordshire PCT, as at 30 September 2007

	GP practices	*Practice nurses*
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	61	203
West Hertfordshire PCT	69	209

Note:
The annual GP Census collection does not collect data broken down by allied health professionals working within GP practices.
Data quality:
Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust: Midwives

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed by West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [228362]

Ann Keen: Midwives are employed by trusts, not by primary care trusts (PCTs), and therefore the following table shows NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified Midwifery staff in the West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September each specified year.

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

	Headcount
1997	221
2007	176

Note:
In April 2000 Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals NHS Trust and St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust merged to form West Hertfordshire NHS Trust.
Data quality:
Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre Non Medical Workforce Census

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he last met manufacturers of food supplements to discuss the impact upon their businesses of the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements; when he plans to have further discussions with them; what progress has been made in securing the Government's objectives for the interpretation and implementation of the Food Supplements Directive; and if he will make a statement; [227892]

(2) whether Member States were consulted by the European Commission on the impact assessment of different options for the maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under the Food Supplements Directive; and what assessment the Food Standards Agency has made of the impact of each of those options upon *(a)* specialist manufacturers, *(b)* specialist retailers and *(c)* consumer choice; [227893]

(3) if he will set out the timetable for the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under the provisions of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; [227894]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Government of *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey on the implementation of the Food Supplements Directive and European medicines law; and if he will make a statement. [227895]

Dawn Primarolo: The interests of United Kingdom manufacturers of specialist food supplements are being represented as part of working group discussions and bilateral meetings between the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and their counterparts in other member states.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has been running an extensive programme to manage the regulatory impact of the traditional herbal registration scheme. This programme, which includes individual company meetings held free of charge to help companies progress their plans to register products, is contributing to the steady expansion in the number of applications made and registrations granted under the scheme in the United Kingdom. Where companies have acquired successful experience of the scheme, they may wish to take up opportunities to submit applications to register products in other member states of the European Union.

There are no current plans for Health Ministers to meet with the food supplements industry. The FSA meets regularly with the food supplements industry to discuss issues relating to food supplements, including the work on setting maximum levels.

We have been advised by the FSA that member states were not consulted by the European Commission before the commencement of the Commission's impact assessment exercise in summer 2008. The FSA has met with the contractor appointed by the European Commission to carry out the work and provided details of United Kingdom stakeholders who could provide the data on the food supplements which are currently being marketed.

The FSA has not made an assessment of the options put forward in the European Commission's impact assessment exercise and their impact on specialist manufacturers and retailers and consumer choice. An assessment of the likely impact will be made when the specific levels being proposed by the European Commission are available. These will be set out in European Commission proposals, which are currently expected in January 2009, on which the FSA will consult fully.

In advance of the Commission publishing its proposals, an ad hoc technical working group comprising a small number of member states has been established which met for the first time on 15 October 2008. A further technical working group meeting has been suggested for late November 2008 and it is envisaged that the outputs of these meetings will then be reported back to all member states at a full working group meeting, a date for which is yet to be advised.

A meeting was held on 11 April 2008 between officials from the Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man Governments and those of the FSA, MHRA and Ministry of Justice. Officials representing the Government of Jersey indicated that a major update of food safety legislation was under way in Jersey and that both the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation are to be implemented as part of this exercise. Discussions at official level regarding the implementation of the legislation in Guernsey are ongoing.

The MHRA has written to the Government of Jersey to begin discussions with them on the implementation of the Medicines Directive 2001/83/EC. During 2007 and 2008, the MHRA has had written discussions and a series of meetings with the Government of Guernsey over the implementation of the Medicines Directive. The MHRA believes that Guernsey's proposed medicines law will receive Royal Assent in the near future. The MHRA will continue to assist the Government of Guernsey in the development of the additional legislation required for implementation of the Medicines Directive.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Asylum

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recommendations in the UN High Commissioner for Refugees report on camps in the occupied territories of the Western Sahara and Algeria. [226727]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not aware of a recent report by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Western Sahara or the camps in Western Sahara and Algeria. However my hon. Friend may be interested to learn that the high commissioner is considering visiting the region early next year.

The UK strongly supports UNHCR's activities in Western Sahara as elsewhere. The UK continues to believe that the resolution of humanitarian questions should not await the conclusion of a political settlement. The UK, along with EU partners, has called on Morocco and the Polisario to deal with outstanding human rights issues and implement measures that will increase people's confidence.

Burma: Political Prisoners

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to seek to secure the release of political prisoners in Burma in the last 12 months. [227580]

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Burma on the detention of opposition parliamentarians. [228219]

Bill Rammell: Over the last 12 months my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers have raised the need for the immediate release of all political prisoners in Burma on many occasions with key countries in the region including China, India, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia. Our ambassador in Rangoon has also repeatedly raised the issue with ministers in the military Government. In

October 2007 we helped to secure unprecedented UN Security Council action on Burma, which included a clear demand for the early release of political prisoners. This demand was reaffirmed by the UN Security Council in May under UK chairmanship. We continue to support the UN Secretary-General's efforts to work on the release of prisoners. The EU has also made its position clear, and with strong UK support, strengthened sanctions against the regime in response to the brutal crackdown on peaceful protests last autumn, when many political activists were detained. Our embassy in Rangoon continues to inquire about specific cases with political prisoner support networks and those non-governmental organisations concerned with prisoner welfare.

While we welcome the release during September of a small number of political prisoners, it is important to remember that arbitrary arrests continue, and more than 2,000 political prisoners remain in detention.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political and humanitarian situation in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [227285]

Bill Rammell: The military regime is determined to maintain its hold on power regardless of the cost and suffering of the people of Burma. The junta's 'Roadmap to disciplined democracy', including a new constitution and elections planned for 2010, is designed to entrench military rule behind a facade of civilian government. The process excludes the opposition and meaningful participation by the ethnic groups. Fundamental rights are consistently ignored. Over 2,000 political prisoners remain in detention, including opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and other pro-democracy leaders. Ethnic minority groups have been methodically marginalised. Against this backdrop, we will continue to do all we can to generate international pressure for a peaceful transition to democracy and respect for human rights in Burma. In particular, we will continue to give our full support to the UN Secretary-General and his efforts to break the current deadlock.

The humanitarian situation is of serious concern across the country. One third of the country's population lives on less than one third of a dollar a day, 10 per cent. do not have enough to eat, half of Burma's 20 million children do not complete primary school, and 70 per cent. of the population is at risk from malaria. The protests of August and September 2007 were sparked by this ever increasing poverty, and people's deep frustration with the economic and political failures of the Burmese regime. Relief aid for those affected by Cyclone Nargis, which struck Burma in May, is now getting through with greater co-operation from the Burmese regime than it showed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. However, as many as 300,000 people remain highly vulnerable. The UK is committed to supporting the post-Cyclone Nargis relief effort and remains the biggest bilateral donor, contributing £45 million. UK aid for Cyclone Nargis is delivered through the UN, Red Cross and international and local non-governmental organisations to ensure that relief supplies are properly distributed to cyclone victims and do not benefit the regime.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of a military escalation in Karen state, Eastern Burma; and what steps his Department plans to take to seek to prevent military action against civilians there. [227581]

Bill Rammell: Our embassy staff in Rangoon are not granted direct access to Karen State to confirm reports of increased military activity but there is a history of fighting between the Burmese military and Karen groups. This only increases the humanitarian crisis facing the thousands of displaced people living near or on the Thai-Burma border.

The continued violence in Karen state is regrettable and highlights the need for a comprehensive and just settlement of Burma's ethnic conflicts. Stability and territorial integrity are important to all nations and the continued neglect of the needs of the people of Burma by the regime is at the root cause of conflict in many parts of the country. We regularly emphasise to the Burmese regime, and to countries in the region, the need for the full and fair participation of ethnic nationalities in the political process as key to a durable solution to Burma's problems. There can be little prospect of national reconciliation without genuine recognition of their political, economic and social rights.

Colombia: Human Rights

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Government has made to the Colombian Government on attacks on human rights defenders. [226632]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stressed the UK's support for the work of civil society organisations and human rights defenders to the Colombian Foreign Minister when they met in London on 9 October, which I reiterated when I spoke to the Colombian Foreign Minister on 16 October.

We have repeatedly made clear to the Colombian Government that human rights defenders' work should be protected and promoted. We have done so publicly, with my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) commenting as the Minister of State with responsibility for South America in April 2008:

> "The situation for trade unionists, human rights defenders and indeed other Colombians continues to be very serious. I call on the Colombian Government to do its utmost to ensure that the brave people of Colombia striving for the protection of human rights are allowed to do their vital work safely and without fear, and that the perpetrators of threats, violence and murder are pursued and held accountable for their actions, whoever they are."

We are matching this advocacy with practical help, through assistance to help strengthen civil society organisations and the role they play in democracy, and raising cases with the authorities to ensure that swift action is taken and justice is seen to be done.

Cuba: Prisoners

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience currently held in custody in Cuba. [228439]

Gillian Merron: The Cuban Government retains tight control over information about their prisons. It is therefore difficult to put an exact figure on the number of political prisoners. Four prisoners of conscience were conditionally released during 2007 and subsequently exiled to Spain. However, Amnesty International consider, in their latest 2008 report, that there are at least 62 prisoners of conscience currently in Cuba.

In January 2008 the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation, an unofficial source of human rights information inside Cuba, counted 234 cases of political prisoners. In the Commission's August report, it notes an overall decline in numbers of political prisoners but an increase in temporary detentions and harassment against dissidents. This is consistent with reporting we have received from our embassy in Havana.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222083]

Gillian Merron: Information about some organisations, that have supplied goods or services to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, cannot be released for reasons of security. It is not possible to produce a sanitised version of this information without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* cost, *(b)* print run and *(c)* distribution of the Diplomatic Service List was in the last financial year before its discontinuation. [226074]

Gillian Merron: The Diplomatic Service List was last published by The Stationery Office in 2006. They met all production costs for a print run of 2,200 copies. Of these, 1,020 copies were purchased by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, at a discounted cost of £18,400. The Stationery Office sold the balance to other Whitehall Departments and the public; typical customers including local councils, reference and public libraries, parliamentarians and researchers.

Staff costs, incurred by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, totalled one full time member of staff, to manage the information in a dedicated database, and short-term limited contributions from three staff during the annual collation process.

Georgia: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens are participating in the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia. [226992]

Caroline Flint: 22 British citizens have been selected to participate in the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia. 19 of them are already in Georgia performing monitoring duties with the Mission. The remaining three are due to deploy to Georgia shortly in order to take up posts in the Mission's headquarters.

Hezbollah

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have had discussions with Hezbollah in Lebanon. [227974]

Bill Rammell: The UK has not had contacts with Hezbollah since 2005. We keep our policy on contact with Hezbollah under close review.

Our objective with Hezbollah remains to encourage them to move away from violence and play a constructive and peaceful role in Lebanese politics.

The UK proscribed Hezbollah's External Security Organisation in 2001 and in July 2008 that proscription was extended to the entire military wing of Hezbollah. We did not proscribe its political wing.

India: Terrorism

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Indian Government on terrorism *(a)* in India and *(b)* internationally; and if he will make a statement. [226239]

Bill Rammell: The UK has a wide-ranging and constructive relationship with the Indian Government on countering terrorism, both in India and internationally. UK Ministers regularly discuss the issue with their Indian counterparts, most recently on 26 September when my right Hon. Friend the Prime Minister met Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New York, and on 15 September when my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice, met Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil in New Delhi. The Government condemn acts of terrorism wherever they occur, including those which have taken place in India over recent months. We are committed to working with the Indian Government to reduce the terrorist threat posed to both our countries.

Malta: Elections

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on concerns about the recent elections in Malta; and if he will make a statement. [226874]

Caroline Flint: The general election in Malta took place on 8 March. We have no reason to believe it was conducted other than in accordance with European standards and democratic principles.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent elections in Malta; and if he will make a statement. [226875]

Caroline Flint: The general election in Malta took place on 8 March. We understand the elections to have been free, fair and in accordance with European standards and democratic principles.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* the United States and *(b)* Russia on the respective proposals in each country to modernise their nuclear weapons programme and the compatibility of such modernisation with obligations under Article VI of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. [226915]

Bill Rammell: We regularly discuss with the United States and Russia the importance of action to reinforce the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, including through demonstration of our commitment to Article VI. Under their bilateral strategic arms control arrangements, by 2012 both countries will have reduced their total stockpiles of strategic nuclear warheads by around 80 per cent. since the end of the cold war. We have welcomed that progress, and encouraged both countries to reduce their nuclear arsenals even further in due course.

Overseas Residence: Death

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department provides for British nationals seeking information on relatives who have died abroad. [225484]

Gillian Merron: Information on the assistance the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides to bereaved relatives is set out in our booklet "Guide for Bereaved Families" and a leaflet on "Death Overseas", which is available in hard copy or at the following FCO website addresses.

Guide:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/bereaved-families

Leaflet:

http ://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621 /death-overseas

Pakistan: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Pakistan on the murder of members of the Ahmadiyya community. [224996]

Bill Rammell: We have not discussed the murder of these two members of the Ahmadiyya community with the Government of Pakistan, but we have made joint representations with our EU partners to the Government of Pakistan about the discrimination to which the Ahmadiyya community is subjected.

We are aware that the Sindh Minister for Information will be conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding these murders and our High Commission in Islamabad will follow its progress.

Radovan Karadzic

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his United States counterpart on the allegations made by Radovan Karadzic regarding an agreement with the US to afford him immunity from arrest; and if he will make a statement. [227354]

Bill Rammell: No discussions have taken place with the US Government on allegations by Radovan Karadzic that the US offered him immunity from arrest. The US Department of State issued a statement on 31 July in response to these allegations, available on its website:

www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/07/107615.htm.

The UK strongly supports the efforts of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to complete its mandate by prosecuting those alleged to be most responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia, such as Radovan Karadzic.

We continue to urge all States, particularly those of the former Yugoslavia, to fully co-operate with the Tribunal so that the remaining fugitive indictees, Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic, can be apprehended and made to face international justice as soon as possible.

Russia: Missiles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 607W, on Russia: missiles, what discussions he has had with his *(a)* European and *(b)* NATO counterparts on the test-firing by Russia of the RS-12M Topol missile on 27 August 2008; and if he will make a statement. [227227]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with either European or North Atlantic Treaty Organisation counterparts.

We discuss missile related issues with Russia in the context of the Hague Code of Conduct and the missile technology control regime.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Tibet's right to national self-determination; and what recent steps he has taken in pursuing that policy. [226717]

Bill Rammell: Successive Governments have regarded Tibet as autonomous while recognising the special position of the Chinese authorities there. We have consistently informed the Chinese Government of our view that greater autonomy should be granted to the Tibetans. But like all other EU members, we do not support Tibetan independence.

We have emphasised that the current political difficulties in Tibet can best be resolved through dialogue between the Chinese Government and the Dalai Lama. The

Dalai Lama has stated publicly that he opposes violence and does not seek independence, but greater autonomy for Tibet. We consider that this provides a basis for a negotiated settlement to the issue of Tibet.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister had talks with both Premier Wen and President Hu while in China for the Olympic games. He reiterated our desire that the next round of the dialogue between the Chinese Government and representatives of the Dalai Lama should take place in a constructive manner and produce positive outcomes.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration has been given to the status of the Western Sahara as part of the discussions on Morocco's status with the EU. [226434]

Bill Rammell: The issue of Western Sahara, while not discussed within the context of Advanced Status, remains an integral part of the political dialogue between the EU and Morocco. Western Sahara was discussed during the EU-Morocco Association Council on 13 October. At the meeting the EU regretted the lack of progress on Western Sahara and reaffirmed that the next personal envoy of the UN Secretary General must resume and continue the work of their predecessor. The EU further stated that UN Security Council resolution 1813 provided an appropriate framework for future discussions within the UN and called for every effort possible to resolve this long-standing conflict.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the account taken by the European Commission of non-recognition of Morocco's claim to the Western Sahara in its conclusion of the Association Agreement with Morocco. [226506]

Bill Rammell: There is no reference made in the EU-Morocco Association Agreement to the non-recognition of Morocco's claim to Western Sahara. The EU and Morocco do and will continue to discuss Western Sahara during their political dialogue.

SCOTLAND

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what IT projects his Department is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the completion date of each is. [229174]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system; consequently, the Office does not directly undertake IT projects.

Departmental Internet

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many visits to his departmental website have been recorded from computers outside his Department and the parliamentary estate since May 2007. [228115]

Ann McKechin: Information on visits to the departmental website from outside the Department and the parliamentary estate is not available. The Scotland Office website:

www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk

has received a total of 179,147 visits since May 2007, from 72,957 unique visitors.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many civil servants working in his Department have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229545]

Ann McKechin: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members and senior managers whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in the Ministry of Justice's Annual Resource Accounts; a copy of these accounts for financial year 2007-08 can be found in the House Library or accessed electronically using the following link:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0708/hc08/0869/0869.asp.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within her responsibilities. [226514]

Tessa Jowell: In the last 12 months, the Government Olympic Executive has commissioned only recruitment advertising, to which we have had a positive response, and a small amount of advertising to promote three regional "London 2012: Ask the Team" public question time events, all of which generated a good level of interest.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited to work in her Office in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228747]

Tessa Jowell: One person aged over 55 years has been recruited to work in the Minister for the Olympics office. This represents 11 per cent. of new recruits.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day she has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226813]

Tessa Jowell: The number of named day written questions answered on the named day in the current parliamentary session by me as Minister for the Olympics is 41 (56.9 per cent.).

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [228655]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1196-97W.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years of age were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228763]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There were no new recruits aged over 55 or 60 years of age to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 2007-08. A total of 10 new entrants below this age were recruited to the Department during this period.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Sport England spent on advertising appointments in each of the last five years. [225693]

Andy Burnham: The costs incurred on advertising for ministerial appointments to Sport England were as follows:

	Total excluding VAT (£)	
Financial year	*DCMS*	*Sport England*
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	13,253	7,770
2007-08	7,669	11,689
2008-to date	8,297	—

Film: Hearing Impaired

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department has issued on the subtitling of films in cinemas for the benefit of people who are deaf including those shown out of school hours for children who are deaf. [226825]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* Although the Government do not publish guidelines on the subtitling of films in cinemas, in February 2007 the UK film industry published its own guidance.

In addition, the UK Film Council (UKFC), the Government's strategic agency for film, has developed and pursued policies to improve access to the cinema for people of all ages with sensory impairments.

For example, it is a requirement that all feature films receiving UKFC lottery funds supply appropriate formats to enable them to be shown in cinemas in accessible formats. The UKFC has supplied digital projection equipment to 240 screens in the UK via the Digital Screen network project, enabling cinemas to show subtitled films.

The first ever UK-wide Film Education Strategy was launched in June this year. Film education—as defined in the strategy—is about making films more accessible to children and young people. The UK Film Council has emphasised the need for the implementation of that strategy to go forward with full regard of the needs of all children, with respect of their accessibility needs.

Performing Arts: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the welfare standards applicable to animals used in the performance and arts industries. [228909]

Barbara Follett: Officials from DCMS and DEFRA recently met representatives from the film industry and the RSPCA to discuss welfare standards in the industry. The view of both the industry and the RSPCA is that high welfare standards already exist and that government regulation would not be appropriate. Government and industry are currently reviewing the voluntary codes of practice that welfare bodies have prepared for the industry. In addition DEFRA are currently considering the feasibility of introducing regulations to protect the welfare of wild animals used in travelling circuses.

Swimming

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* funding his Department has allocated to and *(b)* discussions his Department has had with (i) the Amateur Swimming Association, (ii) the Royal Life Saving Association, (iii) the swimming and water safety website, (iv) the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents, (v) the Institute of Swimming Teachers and Coaches, (vi) the British Swimming Coaches and Teachers' Association, (vii) the Swimming Teachers' Association and (viii) any other swimming organisations in relation to (A) teaching people to swim and (B) coaching competitive swimmers in each of the last 10 years. [228653]

Andy Burnham: My Department keeps in regular contact with various bodies to increase participation levels in swimming and promote the coaching of competitive swimmers. A list of these meetings could be assembled only at disproportionate cost.

Sport England has advised that the following funding was allocated to the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and other swimming organisations in each of the last 10 years. However, to extract information pertaining to teaching people to swim and coaching competitive swimmers could be provided only at disproportionate cost:

£

	Amateur Swimming Association		*Other bodies*	
Financial year	*Lottery*	*Exchequer*	*Lottery*	*Exchequer*
1997-98	0	0	0	0
1998-99	0	0	0	0
1999-2000	0	0	0	0
2000-01	2,348,698	0	0	0
2001-02	217,84	0	0	0
2002-03	16,292,070	50,000	0	0
2003-04	295,157	0	8,250	0
2004-05	924,279	0	0	0
2005-06	149,293	216,000	38,082	0
2006-07	0	0	0	0
2007-08	3,099,008	0	0	76,000

Sport England has no record of providing awards to the following bodies or projects in respect of teaching people to swim or coaching of competitive swimmers:

Royal Life Saving Association, the swimming and water safety website, Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents, Institute of Swimming Teachers and Coaches, British Swimming Coaches and Teachers' Association, Swimming Teachers' Association.

Sport England has provided awards to support Community Sports Coaches (CSCs) in a number of sports over the period 2005-09. It is not possible to identify the exact amount of investment to swimming as many awards will be for coaches working across more than one sport. However, Sport England estimates that a total investment of more than £1.1 million will have benefited swimming coaching. CSCs will normally provide coaching to non-competitive swimmers, and their work may include introductory and taster sessions for new swimmers.

The lottery awards to the ASA include an award of £3,020,437 for the ASA Club and Coach Programme 2007-10. This supports the establishment of talent pathways, including the provision of coaching for swimmers at grass roots level.

UK Sport has funded elite swimming competitors over the same period, but to disaggregate the element spent on coaching could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has allocated *(a)* to swimming and *(b)* to elite and competitive swimming in each of the last 10 years. [228654]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that the following funding has been allocated to swimming in each of the last 10 years:

£

	Swimming (overall figure)		*Elite and competitive swimming (figures included in overall figure for swimming)*	
Financial year	*Exchequer*	*Lottery*	*Exchequer*	*Lottery*
1997-98	[1]—	55,700,872	[1]—	21,869,600
1998-99	323,500	56,082,875	0	0
1999-2000	320,000	25,154,681	0	112,237
2000-01	340,000	22,192,764	0	8,941,360
2001-02	340,000	29,920,415	0	1,957,905
2002-03	343,660	36,331,316	0	16,688,438
2003-04	449,333	21,561,774	0	1,748,831
2004-05	688,000	18,987,199	0	3,194,768
2005-06	701,000	11,801,663	0	149,293
2006-07	947,891	6,640,736	0	0
2007-08	856,192	11,155,462	0	0

[1] No records

UK Sport has advised that the following funding has been allocated to the world class swimming programme in each of the last 10 years:

£

	Elite and competitive swimming (figures included in overall figure for swimming)		
Financial year	*Exchequer*	*Lottery*	*Lottery (events)*
1997-98	143,500	2,011,299	—
1998-99	260,000	2,725,201	—
1999-2000	195,000	3,356,484	—
2000-01	170,000	3,251,651	—
2001-02	195,000	2,985,964	1,610
2002-03	245,000	3,079,250	35,000
2003-04	299,610	3,103,124	60,000
2004-05	1,335,175	2,267,760	7,500
2005-06	334,200	3,289,969	—
2006-07	2,572,688	5,552,757	—
2007-08	3,187,243	5,370,196	207,000

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases under *(a)* the old and *(b)* the new scheme are open. [226095]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases under (a) the old and (b) the new scheme are open. [226095]

At the end of June 2008 the Agency had 697,000 current scheme and 658,700 old scheme cases. This includes cases awaiting assessment.

Information on the number of cases currently handled by the Agency, split by scheme is routinely published in Table 1 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest version is available in the House of Commons library or online at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_jun08.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts his Department has with cleaning services providers; and what the hourly rate of pay for cleaners working in his Department is. [223874]

Mr. McNulty: The Department has a contract with Land Securities Trillium (LST) for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation, including cleaning services, and does not have any direct contracts with service partners. LST provide all the Department's cleaning services through two service partners: ISS and MITIE.

Hourly pay rates for cleaners employed by ISS and MITIE vary between £5.73 per hour and £7.00 per hour, depending upon geographical area, job type and tasks.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department were dismissed for gross misconduct in each of the last five years. [226153]

Jonathan Shaw: The information about the number of staff dismissed for gross misconduct for the period April 2004 to September 2008 (the most recent date for which figures are available) is shown in the following table:

Employees dismissed in Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for gross misconduct

	Number
April 2004 to March 2005	223
April 2005 to March 2006	227
April 2006 to March 2007	121
April 2007 to March 2008	202
April 2008 to September 2008	126

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228413]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department realigned its contracts with its major suppliers, EDS and BT, in 2005, which means the Department only pays for the IT services it consumes.

Included within these realigned contracts are obligations on the suppliers to maintain and refresh the IT infrastructure that underpins the delivery of standard services. The costs for all upgrades of hardware and software are, therefore, included within the prices the Department pays for the IT services and not identified separately.

Departmental Planning

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reports have been completed by his Department's Strategy Team in each of the last 12 months. [229049]

Jonathan Shaw: The following reports have been published by the Department's Strategy Unit over the last 12 months:

More support, higher expectations: the role of conditionality in improving employment outcomes (July 2008)

Factors influencing the inter and intra class mobility of Jobcentre Plus Customers: a case study approach (May 2008)

Building a coherent strategy for engagement: deliberative research with employers (March 2008)

The challenges facing DWP in the future: deliberative research with the public (December 2007)

Department for Work and Pensions Simplification Plan 2007-8 (December 2007)

Departmental Strategic Objectives (December 2007)

In addition, the Strategy Unit has contributed to a number of departmental reports, including the Welfare Reform Green Paper 'No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility' (July 2008), the Department for Work and Pensions Three Year Business Plan 2008-2011 (February 2008) and the Welfare Reform Green Paper 'Ready for work: full employment in our generation' (December 2007).

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226498]

Jonathan Shaw: The proportion of invoices paid within 30 days of receipt for small and medium-sized enterprises is not recorded or reported separately. However the overall performance for the Department and the agencies for which the Department is responsible in 2007-08 was 96 per cent. This can be further broken down to:

(a) The Department 96 per cent.

(b) The Agencies

Disability and Carers Service: 95 per cent.

Child Support Agency: 96 per cent.

The Pensions Service: 98 per cent.

Jobcentre Plus: 96 per cent.

Overall performance: 96 per cent.

Note:

For the period specified in this response, Disability and Carers Service and The Pension Service operated as separate agencies and have, therefore, been reported on separately. Disability and Carers Service and The Pension Service subsequently merged to become PDCS on 1 April 2008.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229188]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not hold historical information on how many civil servants have been recruited through the fast stream centrally or their average salary costs; this information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) agencies sponsored by his Department in each year since 2001. [228943]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 469W.

Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions who represented his Department at meetings on 15 October with the *(a)* Royal National Institute for the Blind and *(b)* other organisations taking part in the lobby of Parliament that day regarding disability living allowance entitlements. [228642]

Jonathan Shaw: I had the great pleasure of attending and speaking at the Royal National Institute for the Blind's lobby of Parliament on 15 October. It provided me with a valuable opportunity to talk to many blind and partially sighted people as well as representatives of Royal National Institute for the Blind and their partner organisations.

Explosives: Storage

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions explosive site licences or applications for such licences have been revoked or refused on the grounds of the holder or applicant being deemed unfit to store explosives under the Manufacturing and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005. [226685]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive has used the power contained in the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005 to refuse applications for a licence on the grounds of the applicant is unfit to store explosives on two occasions.

HSE has also notified the holders of two existing licences that it has decided to revoke their licences because they are not fit persons to store or manufacture explosives. HSE's decisions in relation to these revocations are currently subject to appeal under the provisions of section 44 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Comparable information is not available for local authorities and the police, who are also licensing authorities under the 2005 regulations.

Housing Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed housing benefit *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in each month of the last two years. [226188]

Kitty Ussher: Figures for numbers of claimants are not available. Figures for the number of recipients are available and can be supplied only on a quarterly basis.

The available information is in the tables.

Number of recipients of housing benefit in Great Britain 2003-07

	Number
2003	3,813,560
2004	3,943,590
2005	3,981,020
2006	4,024,280
2007	4,040,940

Notes:

1. Figures for any non-responding local authorities have been estimated.
2. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in August 2003 to August 2007.

Number of recipients of housing benefit in Great Britain in 2006-07

	Number
February 2006	3,998,430
May 2006	3,990,030
August 2006	4,024,280
November 2006	4,028,760
February 2007	4,039,750
May 2007	4,031,810
August 2007	4,040,940

Notes:

1. Figures for any non-responding local authorities have been estimated.
2. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in February 2006 to August 2007.

Incapacity Benefits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants had been in receipt of incapacity benefit for five years or more in the last year for which figures are available. [225573]

Jonathan Shaw: A holding reply was sent 22 October 2008.

The available information is in the following table. Of new claimants coming onto incapacity benefits, well over half will leave within a year. Those who have been on benefit for over five years will include the most severely disabled. This group has much greater barriers to work and understandably remain on incapacity benefits for longer durations.

The Green Paper "No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility", Cm 7363, announced our intention to extend our reforms to existing customers, and ensure that they too benefit from the help and support available. We will begin this by introducing, in 2009, mandatory pathways to work interviews for existing customers under aged 25. By 2013 all customers will have been migrated from incapacity benefits to employment and support allowance and as part of that most will be required to engage with us in a pathways to work style programme.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants with a duration of five years or more

Quarter	*All durations*	*Duration 5 years or more*	*Duration of 5 years or more as a percentage of total caseload*
May 2007	2,685,320	1,509,360	56
August 2007	2,683,160	1,504,630	56
November 2007	2,683,750	1,504,880	56
February 2008	2,659,650	1,500,220	56

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10,
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Income Support: Mortgages

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) at what interest rate income support mortgage interest rate payments are being made; and at what rate income support mortgage interest payments were paid in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; [226190]

(2) how often the interest rate for income support mortgage interest payments is set; [226191]

(3) at what level the interest rate for income support mortgage interest payments was set in each month for the last two years; [226192]

(4) on what basis the interest rate for income support mortgage interest payments is set. [226193]

Kitty Ussher: From December 2004, the standard interest rate (SIR) used to calculate support for mortgage interest payments in income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and state pension credit was changed to respond to changes in the Bank of England base rate. The SIR is the Bank of England base rate plus an additional 1.58 per cent. This is more representative, transparent, easier to understand and easier to administer than the previous method, which was based upon an average of building society interest rates. The additional 1.58 per cent. recognises the fact that lenders' interest rates are set at a higher rate than the base rate and to ensure that no-one lost out when the method of calculation changed.

DWP no longer needs to wait for the collation of statistics by the Financial Services Authority and the official publication by the Office for National Statistics of the average building society interest rate. Nor does it need to lay regulations to change the SIR. As soon as the Bank of England announces a change which triggers a move in the SIR, action is taken to amend the relevant departmental computer systems. This has reduced the implementation time by approximately four weeks compared to the pre-December 2004 arrangements. Changes are normally implemented in about five weeks from the Bank of England's announcement.

The SIR is currently 6.58 per cent. The Bank of England announced a 0.5 per cent. cut in the base rate on 8 October. This will mean that the SIR will reduce to 6.08 per cent. in about five weeks' time.

The information requested is in the table.

Support for mortgage interest: standard interest rate (SIR) changes since 1998

Payable date	*SIR (percentage)*
31 May 1998	8.34
27 December 1998	8.65
28 February 1999	8.24
28 March 1999	7.75
25 April 1999	7.39
16 May 1999	7.08
27 June 1999	6.66
23 April 2000	6.92
25 June 2000	7.44
24 June 2001	6.94
26 August 2001	6.65
23 December 2001	6.19
24 February 2002	5.74
24 March 2002	5.34
23 November 2003	5.07
28 March 2004	5.33
25 July 2004	5.59
26 September 2004	5.88
5 December 2004	6.33
11 September 2005	6.08
10 September 2006	6.33
17 December 2006	6.58
18 February 2007	6.83
17 June 2007	7.08
12 August 2007	7.33
13 January 2008	7.08
16 March 2008	6.83
18 Mary 2008	6.58

Note:
From 5 December 2004, the SIR has been calculated using the Bank of England base rate plus 1.58 per cent. Prior to that, it was based upon an average of building society interest rates.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill of 4 June, 22 July, 12 September and 1 October about his constituent Mr Gerald Mahoney. [227803]

Kitty Ussher: A holding reply was sent on 17 October 2008.

My right hon. Friend's letter of 4 June was not received by the Department.

Replies were sent to my right hon. Friend on:

19 August in response to his letter of 22 July;

16 October in response to his letter of 12 September and;

19 October in response to his letter of 1 October.

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of the working age population that belonged to an employer-sponsored defined benefit pension scheme in each year since 1997. [226170]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is as follows:

Estimates of the percentage of the working-age population who belong to an employer-sponsored defined benefit pension, by year

	Percentage
1991	28
1995	26
2000	25
2004	23
2006	21
2007	21

Notes:

1. Pension scheme membership figures were taken from the Occupational Pension Scheme Survey. Data for years 1991, 1995, 2000 and 2004 were produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). Data for 2007 and revised data for 2006 were published by ONS in September 2008. The coverage of the survey is the UK.

2. Population figures were taken from Table 1 of the mid-year population estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics. 2007 is the latest year published.

3. The working age population is defined as males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

4. To be eligible for membership of an occupational pension scheme, including defined benefit schemes, a person must be an employee working for an employer offering such a scheme 2007

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of private sector employers who offered a pension to their employees in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [226172]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is presented as follows:

	Percentage of firms with any pension provision
1998	34
2000	29
2003	52
2005	44

Notes:

1. All figures are estimates taken from the Employers' Pension Provision Survey. 2005 is the latest year published. The coverage of the survey is private sector employers in Great Britain.

2. Stakeholder pensions were introduced in April 2001, and from October 2001 employers with five or more employees and no other pension provision were required to provide access to Stakeholder pensions. This is reflected in the increase in employer pension provision between 2000 and 2003.

3. Pension provision includes occupational schemes, Group Personal Pensions, Stakeholder Pensions (including schemes with no members and/or no contributions) and firms that contribute to Personal Pensions.

Source:

DWP Employers' Pension Provision Survey

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage employers to provide pensions for their staff. [227373]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A holding reply was sent on 20 October 2008.

Many employers already help their workers to provide for their retirement through workplace pensions. To encourage this and increase participation in workplace pension schemes, our reform programme includes measures that will remove some of the regulatory burdens on schemes and employers and from 2012 employers will have a statutory duty to enrol workers into workplace pension saving that meets minimum standards. We estimate these reforms will lead to between six million to nine million more people newly participating or saving more in workplace pensions.

Pensioners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* the second state pension, *(c)* the basic state pension, *(d)* widow's benefit, *(e)* free television licenses, *(f)* Christmas bonuses, *(g)* attendance allowance paid to pensioners and *(h)* carers allowance paid to pensioners expressed in current prices in each of the last 10 years. [226178]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the table.

Expenditure on selected DWP benefits paid to pensioners

Great Britain, 2008-09 prices	*(a) Pension Credit and predecessors*	*(b) SERPS and S2P*	*(c) Basic State Pension*	*(d) Widow's and Bereavement Benefits*	*(e) Over 75 TV Licence*	*(f) Christmas Bonus*	*(g) Attendance Allowance*	*(h) Carer's Allowance*
1997-98	4,992	4,189	40,255	185	—	184	3,336	—
1998-99	4,671	4,724	41,226	174	—	181	3,459	—
1999-00	4,783	5,563	42,261	163	—	170	3,571	—
2000-01	5,108	5,901	42,427	150	381	169	3,686	—
2001-02	5,465	6,490	44,578	145	445	166	3,806	—
2002-03	5,297	6,932	45,474	179	442	162	3,840	—
2003-04	5,569	7,632	45,755	162	473	162	3,968	42
2004-05	6,670	8,225	46,291	154	486	159	4,104	43
2005-06	7,030	8,928	47,327	138	504	156	4,297	39
2006-07	7,305	9,564	47,506	120	519	154	4,413	42
2007-08	7,582	10,482	48,826	106	525	152	4,572	46

Notes:

1. Pension credit replaced income support for people over 60/minimum income guarantee in 2003-04. Figures include spending on men aged 60 to 64.

2. The main reason for the decline in the payment of widow's and bereavement benefits from 2002-03 is due to changes in the criteria for receipt of the benefits. Widow's benefit is now closed to new claimants, who now receive a bereavement benefit instead. In addition, persons in receipt of widow's and bereavement benefits now receive state pension on reaching state pension age. Previously, persons in receipt of widow's benefit continued to receive this benefit on reaching state pension age and did not receive a state pension. Also, a declining mortality rate means a slight reduction in the numbers claiming these benefits.

3. Over 75 TV licences expenditure is on a UK basis, and was introduced in 2000-01.

4. Christmas bonus comprises of contributory and non-contributory payments and includes all payments made including a small amount to people not of pension age.

5. Carer's allowance replaced invalid care allowance in 2002-03. Consistent estimates of payment of the benefit to pensioners are only available from 2003-04.

Source:

DWP Benefits expenditure tables and accounting data for 2007-08.

Pensioners: Poverty

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government is taking to reduce pensioner poverty. [228456]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Tackling pensioner poverty continues to be one of this Government's key priorities.

The Government have introduced a number of measures to help older people out of poverty. In 1997, the poorest pensioners lived on around £69 a week, today pension credit ensures that no-one needs to live on less than £124.05 a week (£189.35 for a couple). We have successively raised the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit at least in line with earnings in every year since its introduction, and the value of the safety-net we provide for the poorest pensioners has increased by over a third in real terms since 1997.

We have made good progress in tackling pensioner poverty. Between 1998-99 and 2006-07 the number of pensioners in low income in the UK has fallen from 2.9 million to 2.1 million (measured by 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs.)

Our commitments in the Pensions Act 2007 to continue to uprate the pension credit standard minimum guarantee at least in line with earnings over the long term, and to reintroduce the earnings link to basic state pension from 2012, or by the end of the next Parliament, will help secure the gains we have made into the future.

We will continue to strive to ensure that older people are aware of, and take up their entitlements through initiatives such as: using sophisticated data matching to identify those who may be entitled to, but not currently receiving, benefits; home visits for vulnerable customers; local and national advertising and media campaigns; a simple and straight-forward claim process; and ever closer working with partner organisations.

In addition to pension credit we have increased winter fuel payments to £200 for households with someone aged 60-79, and £300 for those with someone aged 80 or over. We will be making an additional payment for winter 2008-09 of £50 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over. Since 1997, we have also introduced free eye-tests, free off-peak bus travel for pensioners and free television licences for over 75s.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government is taking to encourage the take up of benefits that remain unclaimed by pensioners each year. [228457]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Addressing pensioner poverty has been one of the Government's key priorities since 1997. The number of pensioners in relative low income has fallen from 2.9 million in 1998-99 to 2.1 million in 2006-07. Pensioners are less likely to be in poverty, as measured by relative incomes after housing costs are accounted for, than the population as a whole.

Maximising the take-up of benefits is crucial to tackling poverty levels. Since pension credit was introduced in 2003 the number of pensioners in relative low income has fallen by around 500,000.

We are making every effort to ensure that people are aware of and claim their entitlement.

We have simplified the claim process to make pension credit easier to claim. Customers no longer need to sign and return their pension credit claim forms, claims can be made entirely over the phone.

This autumn 2008, we are introducing a measure which will enable claims to housing benefit and council tax benefit made over the phone with pension credit to be forwarded directly to the local authority without the need for a signature—this is a significant simplification to the claim process and should benefit thousands of pensioners.

In February 2007, an additional question was introduced in the pension credit application process to identify relevant caring responsibilities in order to invite the customer, where appropriate, to claim carer's allowance using a new, shortened, claim pack specifically designed for people of pension age.

In addition we are using sophisticated data matching to identify eligible non-recipients, home visits for vulnerable customers, targeted local marketing and media campaigns and ever closer working with partner organisations.

Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of adults who were not members of any pension scheme in each year since 1997. [226176]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table gives a time series breakdown of working age adults who were not members of any active private pension scheme.

	Number of working age adults who were not members of any private pension scheme (million)	*Total number of working age adults (million)*	*Percentage of working age adults who were not a member of any private pension scheme*
1999-2000	17.3	31.8	54
2000-01	17.5	32.0	53
2001-02	17.6	32.3	54
2002-03	17.9	32.5	55

	Number of working age adults who were not members of any private pension scheme (million)	*Total number of working age adults (million)*	*Percentage of working age adults who were not a member of any private pension scheme*
2003-04	18.3	32.5	56
2004-05	18.7	32.5	57
2005-06	19.0	32.8	58

Notes:

1. All figures are estimates and are taken from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). 2005-06 is the latest year for which these data are available.
2. Results are presented for 1990-2000 onwards. Data in earlier years are not comparable because of the implementation of improvements in government surveys relating to pensions from that date.
3. Private pension refers to either an occupational, personal or stakeholder pension scheme.
4. Working age is ages 20-59 for women and 20-64 for men.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, Great Britain, 1999-2000 to 2005-06

Pensions Service: Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the staff at the Pensions Service are entitled to a final salary pension scheme; and how much employer contributions costs to the scheme cost in the last year for which figures are available. [226174]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at 30 September 2008, 92 per cent. of staff in the Pension Service are entitled to benefits under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) final salary scheme.

The Pension Service also paid out £42.153 million in employer contributions for Pension Service staff in 2007-08[1].

[1] *Source:*

The Pension Service Annual Report and Accounts.

Personal Records

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many instances of loss of personal documents have been recorded by *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* the Pension Service in each of the last five years. [225105]

Jonathan Shaw: Prior to November 2007, the Information Commissioner did not require Departments or other organisations to collect or report details of losses of personal documents or data. Therefore this information is not available in respect of previous years, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Because of the nature of a Department which handles data relating to millions of individual customers on a daily basis, small localised instances involving personal data loss—for example the loss of an individual's papers—are not recorded centrally by the Department or its agencies, and the details of such individual instances could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of more significant incidents involving personal data, and which have been reported to the Information Commissioner for the year ending 31 March 2008, were published by the Department in its annual resource accounts on 13 August 2008. The Department will publish, on an annual basis, details of all such incidents in future resource accounts.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects a decision to be made on who will win the tender to run the successor to the Post Office Card Account. [228309]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A holding reply was sent on 21 October 2008.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State to the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 143W.

Poverty: Children

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children lived in households with income of less than 60 per cent. of the national average, broken down by the smallest geographical category possible, in each of the last 10 years. [226159]

Kitty Ussher: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2006/07".

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region or inner and outer London for the London Government office region. Information on the number of children below 60 per cent. of national contemporary median income is set out in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, before housing costs, by region or country, 1996-97 to 2006-07

Million

	1996-97 to 1998-99	*1997-98 to 1999-2000*	*1998-99 to 2000-01*	*1999-2000 to 2001-02*	*2000-01 to 2002-03*	*2001-02 to 2003-04*	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*	*2004-05 to 2006-07*
North East	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
North West	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
East Midlands	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
West Midlands	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
East of England	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
London	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	[illegible]	0.4

Table 1: Number of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, before housing costs, by region or country, 1996-97 to 2006-07

Million

	1996-97 to 1998-99	*1997-98 to 1999-2000*	*1998-99 to 2000-01*	*1999-2000 to 2001-02*	*2000-01 to 2002-03*	*2001-02 to 2003-04*	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*	*2004-05 to 2006-07*
Inner London	n/a	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Outer London	n/a	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
South East	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
South West	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
England	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3
Wales	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Scotland	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Northern Ireland	n/a	n/a	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
UK/GB (three-year average)	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8

Table 2: Number of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, after housing costs, by region or country, 1996-97 to 2006-07

Million

	1996-97 to 1998-99	*1997-98 to 1999-2000*	*1998-99 to 2000-01*	*1999-2000 to 2001-02*	*2000-01 to 2002-03*	*2001-02 to 2003-04*	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*	*2004-05 to 2006-07*
North East	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
North West	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
East Midlands	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
West Midlands	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
East of England	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
London	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Inner London	n/a	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Outer London	n/a	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
South East	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
South West	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
England	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Wales	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Scotland	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Northern Ireland	n/a	n/a	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
UK/GB (three-year average)	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.8

n/a = Not available.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Household Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three survey year averages are given for each of the regions as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of volatility in estimates. This will mean the Great Britain and United Kingdom totals will differ from the single year estimates published in the "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2006/07" report.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. Median incomes are used as the national average in the publication.
5. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are.
7. Number of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children.
8. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

Households Below Average Income.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the relationship between parents' cooking skills and child poverty in families. [226245]

Kitty Ussher: We have not made an assessment of the relationship between parents' cooking skills and child poverty in families.

However, food and nutrition in schools and nurseries is being improved as a result of the introduction of new standards over the past three years.

Sure Start Children's Centres educate children about healthy living from a young age, engaging parents to promote a whole-family approach to eating well and keeping active. Centres deliver activities that encourage an understanding of the importance of diet and nutrition in improving children's health, and provide one to one support for children and parents who are already obese.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce levels of child poverty. [226453]

Kitty Ussher: We have made substantial progress. But we are not complacent and despite the scale of the challenge, the Government's commitment to tackling child poverty is stronger than ever.

We have introduced a range of fiscal and other measures to raise family incomes and ensure poor families with children can access high quality services to support their child's development.

We have invested in public services, such as education, health care and housing which have played a key role in overcoming some of the immediate effects of growing up in poverty and provided poor children with opportunities to enhance their life chances and break cycles of deprivation. Hundreds of thousands of families have been helped by new tax credits, better public services and a renewed welfare state. Already 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty since 1998-99.

In addition, Government announcements over the past two years will result in lifting around a further 500,000 children from relative poverty.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which areas of public policy he plans to bring forward legislation to contribute to achieving the target of eradicating child poverty by 2020. [226534]

Kitty Ussher: We are working particularly closely with stakeholder groups as well as talking to children and families, to devise a strategy to eradicate child poverty by 2020 and to enshrine this commitment into legislation.

Social Security Benefits

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with HIV have had their *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit reduced or removed in the last 12 months. [227745]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 9.

Social Security Benefits: Armed Forces

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to ensure that serving and former servicemen receive the benefits to which they are entitled; and if he will make a statement. [227837]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given by my predecessor to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 53-55W.

Social Security Benefits: Automated Credit Transfer

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a system of automatic payments of benefits to people who are eligible for but not claiming pension credit or council tax benefit; [228458]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on sharing data in order to enable automatic payment of benefits. [228461]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues relating to the assessment and payment of benefits.

The Government are determined to do everything they can to ensure that people get the benefit that they are entitled to, including using information more effectively. For example we already use sophisticated data matching to identify eligible non-recipients and then use a range of approaches to help encourage them to claim.

We have made considerable progress in making the process for claiming benefits more automatic. For example, in a new initiative starting this autumn, pensioners can claim housing benefit and council tax benefit with pension credit entirely over the phone without having to fill in and sign a form.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance he plans to make available to lone parents who move from income support to jobseeker's allowance when their youngest child reaches the age of 12 years to provide the flexibility needed to combine family commitments with job seeking. [227807]

Kitty Ussher: A holding reply was sent on 20 October 2008.

Lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance will have a jobseeker's agreement, tailored to their individual circumstances, setting out what they will do to get work. This will include any restrictions agreed between them and their adviser on their availability and search for work. This could include restricting their availability to a minimum of 16 hours per week. There are also time-limited easements within the jobseeker's allowance regime which cover special circumstances and include periods where the lone parent or their child is ill or if there is a domestic emergency.

In addition, to safeguard the welfare of children, regulations will be amended to increase Jobcentre Plus adviser discretion so that a lone parent who is claiming jobseeker's allowance will not be penalised if they leave a job, or fail to take up a job, because appropriate, affordable child care is not available.

Unemployment

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of future trends in the level of unemployment in the UK. [227888]

Mr. McNulty: While we do not predict future levels of unemployment, we are planning for the impact of higher levels of jobseeker's allowance claims in the coming months. Clearly this is a sensible approach given the expected trends during a time of slower economic growth.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Public Participation

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many consultation exercises his Department has undertaken on airport expansion in the last three years; and at what cost. [227821]

Jim Fitzpatrick: One, with a supplementary consultation. The "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation was published on 22 November 2007 and closed on 27 February this year. As part of the work to update the Impact Assessment issued with that consultation, the Department is currently consulting on an equalities impact assessment of the Heathrow development options. This closes on 9 November.

As this is still ongoing, the full costs of the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation process have not yet been finalised.

Bus Services

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in how many areas real-time information is displayed at bus stops. [227110]

Paul Clark: In the period of the first round of Local Transport Plans, from 2001-02 to 2005-06, local transport authorities installed travel information displays in 34,271 bus stops.

The following table shows the regional breakdown for bus stops with new travel information displays installed during this period.

Region	*Number of new RTI bus stops*
East	4,347
East midlands	1,117
North-east	5,804
North-west	18,765
South-east	1,287
South-west	539
West midlands	479
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,933

This information is not readily available prior to 2001-02, and to reduce the reporting burdens on local authorities has not been collected since 2005-06.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has issued guidance on the desirable frequency of Sunday bus services. [227729]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not issued any guidance on this matter. To the extent that bus service frequency needs are not being met by bus companies acting commercially, it is for each local authority to decide according to their assessment of local needs and priorities whether they should subsidise enhanced provision.

Bus Services: Concessions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 427W, on bus services: concessions, when he plans to publish the results of his Department's survey of travel concession authorities; if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent to each travel concession authority; and if he will make a statement. [226661]

Paul Clark: Preliminary results from the 2008 Concessionary Bus Fares Survey were published in September in the Department's Public Transport Statistics Bulletin, a copy of which is in the House Library. More detailed results will be published on the Department for Transport's website in November 2008.

A copy of the e-mail and survey questionnaire sent to all Concessionary Travel Authorities have been placed in the House Library.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the surplus or shortfall experienced by each local authority as a result of the funding provided by his Department for the provision of free bus passes for people aged over 60 years. [228019]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The Government are confident that funding for statutory concessionary travel is sufficient in total to meet the cost to travel concession authorities (TCAs). The bulk of the funding remains within the overall local government formula grant settlement. Additionally, the Department for Transport provides a special grant totalling £212 million in 2008-09 based on generous assumptions around fares, pass take-up, extra journeys and additional costs. This new funding gave many TCAs increases of 30 per cent. or more on the spending that they reported for concessionary travel in 2006-07.

The Government will continue to monitor the impact of England-wide statutory concessionary travel. There are seasonal patterns to travel so it will take several months to see the full effect.

Bus Services: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government has taken to improve bus services in England. [228310]

Paul Clark: The Local Transport Bill, currently before Parliament, contains measures to improve local bus services. These include provisions that will support stronger partnership working between local authorities and bus operators, make quality contracts schemes a more realistic option for local authorities where they are in the public interest, give passengers a stronger voice by establishing a statutory bus passenger 'champion', and help to improve bus punctuality.

We are also currently considering changes to bus subsidies—in particular the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG)—bringing them more in line with our environmental objectives and improving services for passengers.

And we have announced a further £25 million of funding for a new Kickstart competition. The funding will contribute to the Department for Transport's overall objectives of increasing bus patronage, improving accessibility to services and developing bus services as an alternative to car use. Over the coming months, we will be engaging with key stakeholders on the details of the scheme in preparation for the competition to begin in early 2009.

Bypasses: Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which bypasses have been completed since 2000; [227090]

(2) how many bypasses have been built in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas since 1997. [227091]

Paul Clark: The following table lists bypass schemes which have been completed since 1997 by either the Highways Agency or the relevant local highway authorities. The Department does not distinguish between *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas.

Year	*Scheme*
1997	A1184 Bishop Stortford South West Distributor Road, Hertfordshire
	Parkeston Bypass Stage 1, Phase 1A, Essex .
	Averham Bypass,. Nottinghamshire
	A256 Whitfield to Eastry/Whitfield Bypass
	A413Wendover Bypass, Buckinghamshire
1998	Werrington/Glinton Bypass, Cambridgeshire
	Parkeston Bypass Stage 1, Phase 1B, Essex
	A15/A16 Market Deeping Bypass, Lincolnshire
	A16 Peakes Parkway, North East Lincolnshire
	Dearne Town Link Road, Barnsley
	A1058 Cradlewell Bypass; Newcastle
	A228 Hale Street Bypass, Kent
	A289 Wainscott Bypass, Kent
	Tingewick Bypass, Buckinghamshire
1999	Dudley Southern Bypass, West Midlands
	Coalfields Link Road Phase 1, Barnsley
	Leeds Inner Ring Road, Stage 6, Leeds
2000	A617 Rainworth Bypass, Nottinghamshire
2001	A174 Skelton and Brotton Bypass
	Burntwood Bypass Phase 1 and 2, Staffordshire
	A151 Weston Bypass , Lincolnshire
	C541 Addlethorpe Bypass and Bends Improvement, Lincolnshire
2002	A143 Broome-Ellingham, Essex
	A131 Great Leighs , Essex
	A6023 Denaby Main Diversion, Doncaster
	A511 Ashby Bypass Stage 2, Leicestershire
	A27 Polegate Bypass, East Sussex
	A43 Silverstone Bypass (A43 M40 to B4031 Dualling), Northamptonshire
	A43 Whitfield Turn to Brackley Hatch Improvement (A43 M40 to B4031 Dualling), Northamptonshire
	A6 Clapham Bypass, Bedfordshire
	A66 Stainburn and Great Clifton Bypass, Cumbria
	Wyre Piddle Bypass,. Worcestershire
	A428 Crick Bypass, Northamptonshire: (Developer Funded)
2003	A350 Semington-Melksham Diversion, Wiltshire
	Barnsley Coalfields Link Road (aka Shafton Bypass)
	A6 Great Glen Bypass, Leicestershire
	A53 Hodnett Bypass, Shropshire
	A5 Nesscliffe Bypass, Shropshire
	A500 Basford, Hough and Shavington Bypass, Cheshire
	A6 Rothwell-Desborough Bypass, Northamptonshire
	A6 Rushden and Higham Ferrers Bypass, Northamptonshire
	A6 Alvaston Bypass, Derbyshire
	A650 Bingley Relief Road, Yorkshire
	A4146 Stoke Hammond and Linslade Bypass (Northern Section), Buckinghamshire
	A41 Aston Clinton Bypass, Buckinghamshire
	A527 Biddulph Inner Bypass, Staffordshire .
	Ashton-Under-Lyne Northern Bypass Stage 1, Tameside
2004	St Clements Way, Thurrock (aka West Thurrock Marshes Relief Road)
	A607 Rearsby Bypass, Leicestershire
	Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route, Nottinghamshire
	A63 Selby Bypass,: North Yorkshire ..
	A10 Wadesmill to Colliers End Bypass, Hertfordshire
2005	A167 Chilton Bypass, Durham
	A21 Lamberhurst Bypass, Kent
	A47 Thorney Bypass, Norfolk
	A142 Fordham Bypass, Cambridgeshire
	Gloucester South West Bypass (Castlemeads section)
	A5 Weeford-Fazeley Improvement, Staffordshire
	A158 Coastal Access Improvement Phase 1—Partney Bypass, Lincolnshire
	A428 West Haddon Bypass, Northamptonshire (Developer Funded)
	A57 Cadishead Way (Brinell Drive to City Boundary), Salford
	Burntwood Bypass Phase 3, Staffordshire
2006	A505 Baldock Bypass, Hertfordshire
	South Lowestoft Relief Road, Suffolk
	A421 Great Barford Bypass, Bedfordshire
2007	Barford Bypass, Warwickshire
	A58 Blackbrook Diversion, St Helens, Merseyside
	A197 Pegswood Bypass, Northumberland ,
	A1198 Papworth Everard Bypass, Cambridgeshire
	A612 Gedling Integrated Transport Scheme, Nottinghamshire
	A429 Barford Bypass, Warwickshire
	Barnstaple Western Bypass, Devon
	A38 Northfield Regeneration Relief Road, Birmingham
	Rugeley Eastern Bypass Stage 2, Staffordshire
	A4146 Stoke Hammond and Linslade Western Bypass, Buckinghamshire
	Cradley Heath Town Centre Relief Road, Sandwell
	Sheffield Northern Inner Rdief Road, Sheffield

Year	*Scheme*
	A158/C541 Coastal Access Improvement Scheme, Phase 2—Burgh Le Marsh Bypass, Lincolnshire
	A165 Reighton Bypass, North Yorkshire
	Ridgmont Bypass and Woburn Link Road,. Bedfordshire
	A66 Temple Sowerby Bypass and Improvements at Winderwath, Cumbria
2008	Tunstall Northern Bypass, Stoke
	A590 High and Low Newton Bypass, Cumbria

Commuters

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has carried out on the average journey time to and from work in the UK in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [227108]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the average travel-to-work times in Great Britain over the last 10 years, split by region.

Mean time (minutes

				Autumn					*Oct-Dec*	*Oct-Dec*
Region of workplace	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North-east	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	21	21
North-west	22	23	24	23	23	23	24	24	24	24
Yorkshire and the Humber	22	22	22	23	23	23	24	24	24	25
East midlands	19	20	20	21	21	22	22	22	21	22
West midlands	22	23	23	24	23	23	24	24	24	25
East of England	21	22	22	22	23	22	23	23	23	24
London	41	42	42	43	43	42	42	42	43	44
South-east	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	25
South-west	20	20	21	21	21	21	22	22	23	23
England	25	25	26	26	26	26	26	26	27	27
Wales	19	20	20	19	20	21	20	20	21	22
Scotland	23	23	24	24	24	24	25	25	25	25
Great Britain	25	25	25	25	25	25	26	26	26	27

Source:
Office for National Statistics Labour Force Survey

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [228668]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: The following table details the financial support that the Department for Transport has planned for its Executive non-departmental public bodies for the years 2008 to 2011.

Trinity House is self-funded from light dues collected at ports around the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The Northern Lighthouse Board is similarly funded by light dues collected at ports around the British isles.

Department for Transport planned financial support to its Executive NDPBs for the financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11

£ million

Executive NDPB	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
British Transport Police	14.78	15.22	12.36
Passenger Focus	5.6	5.8	6.3
Railway Heritage Committee	0.0120	0.120	0.120
Trinity House	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Northern Lighthouse Board	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Nil net.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy in 2007-08. [228082]

Mr. Hoon: The total marketing spend for the Department and Executive agencies in the 2007-08 fiscal year are set out in the following table. The Department's major areas of marketing spend were in support of our marketing activities on the THINK! road safety campaign, Act on CO_2 campaign, Concessionary Bus Fares campaign, aviation security and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's continuous registration campaign.

The total expenditure figures for external public relations support are also set out in the following table. The figures, which are rounded, include the cost of public relations agency fees and the cost of public relations promotions in various media. The prime use of external public relations is in support of the marketing activities mentioned above. Public relations costs are included in the marketing figures.

£

Department for Transport	*2007-08 marketing costs*	*2007-08 PR costs*
DFT Central	26,700,000	625,000
Driving Standards Agency	299,700	0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	10,400,000	500,000
Highways Agency	1,600,000	0
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	57,000	27,000
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1,075,000	53,000
Vehicle Certification Agency	80,500	0
Government Car and Despatch Agency	171,800	0

Information on entertainment spend by the Department and Executive agencies is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regulatory and Propriety.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 19 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use her Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222122]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 90-91W.

Electrification

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on further electrification of the rail network. [228006]

Paul Clark: The Government's position on electrification was set out in the rail White Paper Delivering a Sustainable Railway published in July 2007, and available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/whitepapercm7176/

The White Paper committed the Government to keeping the case for strategic electrification under review and for considering other schemes on a case-by-case basis.

The Department for Transport has been working closely with the rail industry to examine the case for extending the electrified network.

Heathrow Airport

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential economic effects of a third runway at Heathrow; and if he will make a statement. [227986]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The economic assessment of the proposals for development at Heathrow is set out at annex B of the consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" (November 2007).

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrowconsultation/consultationdocument/annxb.pdf

Table 1 of annex B sets out the summary of possible monetised impacts of additional capacity. It is estimated that a third runway at Heathrow would generate monetised net benefits to society of £4.4 billion-£5.2 billion.

The impact assessment also assesses other positive and negative non-monetised impacts.

The economic effects of not delivering additional capacity would be to lose the net benefits as set out in the impact assessment.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely economic and commercial effects of not building a third runway at Heathrow Airport. [228280]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The economic assessment of the proposals for development at Heathrow is set out at Annex B of the consultation document Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport (November 2007).

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrowconsultation/consultationdocument/annxb.pdf

Table 1 of Annex B sets out the summary of possible monetised impacts of additional capacity. It is estimated that a third runway at Heathrow would generate monetised net benefits to society of £4.4 to £5.2 billion.

The impact assessment also assesses other positive and negative non-monetised impacts.

The economic effects of not delivering additional capacity would be to lose the net benefits as set out in the impact assessment.

Humber Bridge Board

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much debt was owed by the Humber Bridge Board in each year between 1982 and 2008; and what the rate of interest charged each year was. [228885]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* Figures for debt outstanding are as follows:

	Debt outstanding (£ million)
1982	151.0
1983	168.5
1984	188.1
1985	210.0
1986	234.4
1987	261.6
1988	292.0
1989	326.0
1990	363.8
1991	406.1
1992	453.3
1993	453.3
1994	453.3
1995	453.3
1996	453.3
1997	453.3
1998	359.3
1999	354.3
2000	349.0
2001	349.0
2002	349.0
2003	341.6
2004	337.0
2005	335.6
2006	334.4
2007	333.4
2008	332.8

Prior to 1998, debt was due to both the Public Works Loan Board and to the Secretary of State. It has not been possible, in the time available, to establish the rates that applied in all years up to 1998, but in 1998 the effective rate was 11.62 per cent.

Under the provisions of the Humber Bridge (Debts) Order 1998, the Government agreed to repay loans outstanding with the Public Works Loan Board amounting to £62 million. Interest on the remaining loan of £359.307 million was fixed at 7.75 per cent. p.a. with interest charges being suspended on £240 million of the debt.

In June 2007, the debt was restructured to give the effect of applying an interest rate of 4.25 per cent. to the whole of the outstanding debt.

Inspections

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many inspectors were employed by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228088]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 894W, on motor vehicles: taxation, how many people are forecast to renew their vehicle tax *(a)* online and *(b)* at their local post office in each of the next five years. [227913]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The current forecast based on existing trends of the number of people who will pay their vehicle excise licence (tax discs) via the Post Office® or the Electronic Vehicle Licensing (EVL) facility are shown in the following table:

					Number
	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
EVL	17,415,468	17,447,553	17,479,639	17,511,723	17,543,809
PostOffice	24,375,011	24,563,761	24,700,268	24,868,406	25,040,472

Motorcycles: Driving Tests

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date the new motorcycle driving test will be introduced. [228487]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We plan to introduce the new practical motorcycling test with effect from 30 March 2009.

Motorways: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research the Government has carried out on the length of time taken to clear a motorway after a collision and reopen it for traffic. [227106]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency has conducted research aimed at assessing and reducing the duration of incidents occurring on the strategic road network which result in temporary motorway or lane closure.

The Highways Agency has also undertaken research in collaboration with the emergency services to establish a range of typical 'incident timelines' allowing the examination of the different phases of incident management. The outputs from this research can be found in the Highways Agency's Research Compendium published on the internet at

http://www.ha-research.gov.uk,

also accessible through the Highways Agency's website at

http://www.highways.gov.uk.

The Highways Agency has also worked in collaboration with overseas organisations to share best practice on incident management.

Park and Ride Schemes

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what park and ride schemes have been established since 2000, broken down by region. [227112]

Paul Clark: In the period of the first round of local transport plans, from 2001-02 to 2005-06, local transport authorities implemented 86 new park and ride schemes and 112 extensions to existing park and ride schemes.

The following table shows the regional breakdown for new and extended park and ride schemes during this period.

Region	*Number of new park and ride schemes*
East	20
East Midlands	13
North East	15
North West	36
South East	21
South West	34
West Midlands	46
Yorkshire and Humberside	13

This information is not readily available prior to 2001-02, and to reduce the reporting burdens on local authorities has not been collected since 2005-06.

Public Transport: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage bus companies to spend money on environmentally friendly vehicles. [228311]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has recently consulted on possible changes to bus subsidies—particularly Bus Service Operators Grant—bringing them more in line with our environmental objectives and improving services for passengers. These changes include steps to incentivise the use of fuel efficient vehicles, including low carbon buses.

We are currently considering the next steps in light of the consultation, and will make an announcement later this year.

Public Transport: Concessions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on provision of free public transport for all children. [228965]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* We have no plans at present to extend the statutory minimum bus concession to all children, so there have been no formal talks with local authorities about doing so. However, local authorities can use their existing powers to offer local concessionary travel to children and many do offer some form of concession. Such discretionary concessions are not funded centrally but by each local authority, from its own resources.

For those still at school, many school bus servi~~ces are~~ provided under contract. Every local authority already has a statutory duty to prepare and publish a transport policy statement.

From September 2008 the Education and Inspections Act 2006 extends entitlement to free school transport for pupils entitled to free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of maximum working tax credit.

At secondary school age, pupils attending one of their three nearest schools that is between two and six miles from their home, and those attending their nearest school preferred on grounds of religion or belief between two and 15 miles, will be entitled to free school transport.

Railways

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what change there has been in the average length of a train passenger journey in the last five years. [225618]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not have the information requested. However, the Office of Rail Regulation collates passenger data in the 'National Rail Trends' document, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

Railways: EU Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on his Department's implementation of the EU First Railway package, with specific reference to the implementation of Directive 2001/14. [228005]

Paul Clark: The UK transposed the First Railway Package, which comprised three directives (2001/12/EC, 2001/13/EC and 2001/14/EC), in November and December 2005, principally through two sets of regulations implementing the Directives for Great Britain—the Railways Infrastructure (Access and Management) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/3049) and the Railway (Licensing of Railway Undertaking) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/3050).

Railways: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average increase in annual rail season ticket costs has been in each year since the cap on regulated fares of RPI plus one per cent. was introduced. [226744]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The Office of Rail Regulation records statistics for regulated and unregulated tickets and publishes these in National Rail Trends, available at

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1528.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received from *(a)* passengers or passenger groups and *(b)* train operating companies advocating changes to the Approved Penalty Fares Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [227959]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport receives a small amount of correspondence from passengers, principally related to an individual's penalty fare or unsuccessful appeal against a penalty fare.

The statutory passenger representative bodies, London Travelwatch and Passenger Focus, have both approached the Department recently regarding a consultative review of the Penalty Fares Rules 2002. The Department intends to undertake such a review as provided for under regulation 11 of the Railways (Penalty Fares) Regulations 1994.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* injured as a result of traffic collisions involving drivers under the age of 25 years who exceeded alcohol limits in each region of England and Wales in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) 2008 to date. [227141]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The estimated numbers of people *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* slightly injured resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver or rider under the age of 25 years old and over the legal alcohol level in each Government office region in England and Wales in 1998 to 2007 are given in the table.

Number of casualties

Government Office region	*Severity*	*1997*[1]	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	Killed	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	10	10	10
	Serious	20	30	20	30	30	20	20	30	30	40
	Slight	130	160	150	140	110	150	170	110	150	160
North West	Killed	20	10	10	20	10	20	20	20	20	20
	Serious	120	70	80	80	90	80	130	130	110	80
	Slight	420	410	380	440	460	430	490	470	460	450
Yorkshire and the Humber	Killed	20	10	10	10	10	20	20	20	20	20
	Serious	70	80	60	50	70	120	70	60	80	60
	Slight	330	330	290	310	320	360	410	350	280	260

Number of casualties

Government Office region	*Severity*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
East Midlands	Killed	10	10	10	10	10	0	10	10	20	20
	Serious	80	50	50	70	50	50	80	70	70	70
	Slight	310	270	230	250	270	240	320	260	270	220
West Midlands	Killed	10	10	10	20	10	10	10	20	10	30
	Serious	90	80	70	60	80	60	70	50	60	80
	Slight	290	270	320	340	370	350	350	340	360	360
East of England	Killed	20	0	10	10	10	20	20	20	10	20
	Serious	120	100	90	100	90	110	90	90	70	80
	Slight	350	300	330	310	320	340	320	380	320	310
South East	Killed	20	20	20	30	10	20	20	30	30	20
	Serious	110	100	[illegible]	120	100	120	100	90	80	80
	Slight	500	490	530	510	460	480	520	450	470	480
London	Killed	0	10	10	0	10	0	10	10	0	0
	Serious	70	50	50	60	60	60	60	40	20	20
	Slight	200	190	210	270	290	270	260	180	110	60
South West	Killed	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	20
	Serious	60	60	60	50	40	50	70	50	80	60
	Slight	310	260	310	280	290	300	320	280	370	310
England	Killed	130	80	90	110	90	110	130	150	130	150
	Serious	720	600	570	620	620	660	670	600	600	560
	Slight	2,840	2,690	2,740	2,850	2,890	2,900	3,150	2,810	2,790	2,600
Wales	Killed	10	10	0	0	10	10	10	10	10	20
	Serious	60	50	50	40	40	40	50	30	20	40
	Slight	180	180	200	240	210	220	230	210	220	160
England and Wales	Killed	130	80	90	110	100	110	140	150	150	170
	Serious	780	650	620	670	660	700	720	630	620	600
	Slight	3,010	2,870	2,940	3,080	3,100	3,130	3,380	3,010	3,010	2,750

Notes:

1. Numbers rounded to nearest 1.0.

2. Figures are estimated using data from the police and from coroners' records. The 2007 and 2008 data will be available in September 2009 and September 2010 respectively.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured as a result of traffic collisions involving drivers under the influence of drugs in each region of England and Wales in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) 2008 to date; [227143]

(2) how many people were *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* injured as a result of traffic collisions involving drivers under the age of 25 years under the influence of drugs in each region of England and Wales in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) 2008 to date. [227152]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of people *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver/rider with impairment by drugs (illicit or medicinal) as a contributory factor for 2005 to 2007 in Great Britain are shown in the table.

Number of casualties

	2005		*2006*		*2007*	
Government office region	*Killed*	*Seriously injured*	*Killed*	*Seriously injured*	*Killed*	*Seriously injured*
North East	3	5	4	7	0	10
North West	9	26	15	26	3	31
Yorkshire and the Humber	3	24	1	21	5	31
East Midlands	2	12	5	21	8	15
West Midlands	4	14	4	38	3	10

Number of casualties

Government office region	*2005* *Killed*	*2005* *Seriously injured*	*2006* *Killed*	*2006* *Seriously injured*	*2007* *Killed*	*2007* *Seriously injured*
East of England	12	45	12	33	11	36
South East	12	56	6	47	19	37
London	0	12	4	15	3	17
South West	6	19	1	13	4	28
England	51	213	52	221	56	215
Wales	3	17	0	8	9	13
England and Wales	54	230	52	229	65	228

The numbers of people *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* slightly injured resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver/rider under the age of 25-years-old and with impairment by drugs (illicit or medicinal) as a contributory factor for 2005 to 2007 in Great Britain are shown in the table.

Number of casualties

Government Office region	*2005* *Killed*	*2005* *Seriously injured*	*2005* *Slightly injured*	*2006* *Killed*	*2006* *Seriously injured*	*2006* *Slightly injured*	*2007* *Killed*	*2007* *Seriously injured*	*2007* *Slightly injured*
North East	2	2	8	0	3	15	0	3	6
North West	1	8	24	11	11	24	1	15	39
Yorkshire and the Humber	1	7	18	0	10	34	3	9	37
East Midlands	0	2	6	1	8	8	3	7	9
West Midlands	2	7	27	1	23	30	2	4	28
East of England	4	25	28	4	12	21	4	15	20
South East	5	21	32	3	17	51	9	15	47
London	0	3	11	2	6	9	1	2	5
South West	1	3	15	0	9	17	1	21	26
England	16	78	169	22	99	209	24	91	217
Wales	1	10	19	0	4	12	6	8	14
England and Wales	17	88	188	22	103	221	30	99	231

Information on contributory factors is not available prior to 2005. 2008 data will be published in September 2009.

The contributory factor "impairment by drugs" applies to prohibited drugs as well as all medicines, whether prescription or 'over the counter'. The drug factor is recorded in accidents in which the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting is that the driver/rider was affected by drugs and behaved in a way which caused, or contributed to, the accident. This may not be the result of a drug screening test.

Roads: Essex

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress there has been on the project to dual Priory Crescent in Rochford and Southend East constituency. [227464]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* Southend on Sea borough council, the scheme promoters, are currently exploring revised proposals for a scheme at Priory Crescent in Southend. The Department for Transport is in close liaison with the council in relation to our requirements for a revised Major Scheme Business Case to be submitted for assessment.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* public and *(b)* private spending there was on the strategic road network in each of the last 10 years. [227088]

Paul Clark: In the past 10 years total capital investment on the strategic road network has been:

	£ billion
1998-99	0.6
1999-00	0.4
2000-01	0.4
2001-02	0.6
2002-03	0.7
2003-04	0.4
2004-05	0.6
2005-06	0.7
2006-07	1.1
2007-08	1.1

Privately funded investments are included in the Highways Agency's balance sheet and are shown in the figures above as per guidance issued by Treasury. The amounts relating to privately funded schemes are:

	£ million
2004-05	47
2005-06	93
2006-07	274
2007-08	47

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of road schemes which have been approved in the last 12 months have been procured using *(a)* a DBFO contract and *(b)* another type of private finance initiative. [227092]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency has not awarded any DBFO or other privately financed contracts for road schemes in the last 12 months.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the Highway Agency's strategic road network underwent maintenance in each of the last eight years. [227093]

Paul Clark: To achieve the annual road condition target, the Highways Agency regularly inspects and reviews the condition of the whole strategic network and carries out discrete maintenance as required. Records show the proportion of the strategic network that underwent discrete maintenance for each of the last eight years is between 4 per cent. and 5 per cent[1]. Data for the last two completed financial years (2006-07 and 2007-08) are still being collated, but are expected to be in the range of 4 per cent. to 5 per cent.. Details for each of the last eight years are included in the table.

[1] Estimated using the Highways Agency's Pavement Management System records.

Strategic road network maintained

	Percentage
2000-01	[1]4-5
2001-02	[1]4-5
2002-03	[1]4-5
2003-04	4.1
2004-05	4.4
2005-06	4.0
2006-07	[2]—
2007-08	[2]—

[1] Estimated using the Highways Agency's pavement management Systems records.
[2] Records being collated.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of the strategic road network were widened in each of the last 11 years, broken down by region. [227099]

Paul Clark: The following table shows how many miles of the strategic road network have been widened in each of the last 11 years.

Prior to 2001, data were not categorised by region and therefore only total figures have been provided.

	Government office region								
	South West	*South East*	*East*	*East Midlands*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*North West*	*North East*	*West Midlands*	*Strategic road network widened (Miles)*
1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	39.2
1998	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	41.4
1999	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.6
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.4
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
2003	0	0	12.8	8.1	4.2	0	2.5	0	27.5
2004	0	2.5	14.3	0	0	0	0	0	16.8
2005	3.2	7.1	0	0	3.1	0	0	0	13.4
2006	4.2	3.1	0	0	10.6	4.6	0	0	22.5
2007	0	0	7.9	0	7.9	0	0	0	15.9

n/a = Not available.
Note:
All figures have been rounded to one decimal place. This will account for any slight variation in the totals.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what savings have been made for the public purse in relation to each road detrunked in the last 11 years. [227100]

Paul Clark: The 1998 Transport White Paper, "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone", established a programme of de-trunking to allow the Highways Agency to concentrate on the operation of a strategic road network that links the main centres of population and major transport hubs. The programme enables local highway authorities to set priorities for routes that primarily serve local needs, and supports the Government's aim to devolve more responsibilities to local communities.

The financial arrangements that have been established for the programme ensure that local highway authorities receive funding commensurate with the purpose the roads will continue to serve. This is taken as being broadly equivalent to the funds the Highways Agency would have spent on the road if it had continued to be a trunk road, because the de-trunking of a road through this programme is not expected to alter the quantity or nature of traffic using the road.

Consequently, the de-trunking programme is expected to be broadly cost-neutral.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Street Works and Works for Road Purposes and Related Matters introduced in March 2008 under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 in reducing the disruption caused to traffic by such works by *(a)* utilities and *(b)* other contractors. [228592]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: The powers in the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 were amended and supplemented by the Traffic Management Act 2004 to help tackle disruption. The Department has commissioned an evaluation of certain parts of the Traffic Management Act 2004 that is due to be completed in summer 2010.

This will include the impact of strengthened powers introduced in April and May 2008 by Traffic Management Act 2004. These increased local authorities' powers to direct when works by statutory undertakers may take place and where apparatus may not be located. Statutory guidance is provided on these powers in code of practice for the "Co-ordination of Street Works and Works for Road Purposes and Related Matters" published in July 2007 and updated in March 2008.

Roads: Stonehenge

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government spent on traffic and roads around Stonehenge in each year since 1997. [227101]

Paul Clark: There have been no Highways Agency major schemes constructed around Stonehenge since 1997.

Data regarding the Highways Agency renewal and improvements programme for this part of the south-west are only available from July 2005. There has been no spend in the vicinity of Stonehenge since that date.

Roads:Tolls

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government *(a)* has spent and *(b)* is planning to spend on the pilot projects for a national road pricing scheme announced in the 2008 Budget; what the anticipated start date is for the pilot projects; how many projects will take place; and in what locations. [227116]

Paul Clark: The Government are not running any pilots for a national road pricing scheme, but, as announced to Parliament, they are exploring how charging by the time and place of distance driven could work accurately, reliably and affordably, while safeguarding privacy. Designing an effective mechanism to achieve these aims within any charging scheme presents a significant challenge: We believe that this project will help local authorities in the longer-term development of their plans for combining a local congestion charging scheme with major investment in public transport.

We signed framework agreements in September 2008 with two groups of contractors for this demonstrations project on time, distance and place road pricing technology. We are now procuring individual contracts under those frameworks, and we expect the demonstrations to enter the operational stage early in the new year.

We are working within an overall project budget of £4 million for the financial year 2008-09, but the value of the individual contracts will not be known until December. Total spend over the next two years will depend on how the project's requirements evolve in the light of first and subsequent service contracts.

The trials will be run by four separate contractors acting as 'road user service providers', and the location of the trials is a matter for them.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227048]

Mr. Hoon: Five of the Department's agencies (HA, GCDA, MCA and VOSA) do not record taxi costs separately from other travel expenditure, and could provide the information only at disproportionate cost. DSA have recorded taxi costs separately since 2003 and VCA since 2005. 2003-04 was the first year DfT(C) accounts were fully separate from the then newly formed ODPM. Information for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The available information is included in the following table.

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
DfT(c)	—	122,148	98,826	103,715	189,307
DSA	—	4,896	7,030	9,125	13,401
DVLA	30,333	36,983	42,525	51,800	55,598
VCA	—	—	—	2,581	2,416

Tour Operators: Insolvency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will extend protection under Air Travel Organisers Licensing (ATOL) to all passengers flying on aircraft departing from the UK regardless of the manner in which those flights were booked; and if he will extend the same protection to those passengers who booked their accommodation independently of their flight as that enjoyed under ATOL by those who book their flights and accommodation as a package with a tour operator; [226819]

(2) if he will impose a £1 levy on all passengers departing on flights from the UK to extend Air Travel Organisers Licensing cover to all passengers in the event of financial failure of an airline; [226820]

(3) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the protections provided by the EU Package Travel Directive in relation to the state of the airline industry; and if he will press for its amendment by the European Commission and EU Council of Transport Ministers to ensure that all providers of overseas leisure travel arrangements have adequate protection for consumers. [226821]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are keen to learn the lessons of XL's failure and over the coming weeks officials and Ministers will be discussing a range of issues arising with stakeholders with a view to improving the experience of passengers in future airline or tour operator failures.

The package travel directive (PTD) is currently under review by the European Commission, and the Commission have recently announced plans to conduct a consumer detriment study to begin this work. In 2007, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform contributed to an initial consultation on the review of the PTD which encouraged the Commission to conduct a radical review of the directive. The Government will work to ensure that UK experiences are considered as part of the review.

Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many community transport schemes were *(a)* established and *(b)* disbanded in each of the last eight years. [227096]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not collate such data. Community transport services are run by not-for-profit organisations.

Transport: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on local transport in each of the last eight years. [227114]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has provided in excess of £27 billion to local authorities and Transport for London over the last eight years. Detailed information is set out in figures 7c and 7f in the Department's 2007 annual report, which may be found at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/apr/ar2007/dftannualreport2007.

Some marginal updates of these figures were provided in the 2008 report.

Tyne and Wear Metro

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who will be responsible for determining whether bids received to operate the Tyne and Wear Metro represent value for money and are soundly financed. [228527]

Paul Clark: Nexus (the Tyne and Wear passenger transport authority) will be responsible for evaluating the bids received against all relevant criteria and for selecting a successful candidate. It is a condition of DfT funding that this procurement process is carried out properly and rigorously.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what public sector comparator will be used to assess bids to operate the Tyne and Wear Metro; and who will be responsible for establishing the comparator. [228528]

Paul Clark: The tender process for the operation of the Tyne and Wear Metro will be conducted by Nexus (the Tyne and Wear passenger transport executive). An in-house bid team from Nexus will be eligible to take part in the tender process, and would be required to pre-qualify and submit a bid on the same basis as any other applicant. All bids, including any in-house bid, will be evaluated by Nexus on an equivalent basis.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airports: Security

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans the Government has to introduce mandatory biometric fingerprint checks for passengers on domestic flights; and when she plans to introduce the measures; [214501]

(2) which legislative provisions permit the biometric fingerprinting of passengers by airport operators on domestic flights; and what conditions apply; [214502]

(3) which airports will be required to implement biometric fingerprint checks for passengers on domestic flights; and when these measures are to be introduced at each. [214503]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 July 2008]:* The Government are considering using powers in paragraph 26(3) of schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 1971 to require operators of certain airports to verify the identity of travellers through biometrics such as fingerprints before boarding, where there is a mixing of domestic and international passengers in a common departure lounge and where this would be a proportionate measure to manage border security.

The Government continue to work closely with airport operators on the measures required to maintain the security of the UK border and of air travel.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what enforcement campaigns her Department is conducting to prevent *(a)* underage drinking, *(b)* the sale of alcohol to young people and *(c)* alcohol-related crime and disorder. [228997]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Building upon the successes of the previous Alcohol Misuse Enforcement campaign (AMEC), the Tackling Under Age Sales of Alcohol to Children (TUSAC) and the Responsible Alcohol Sales campaign (RASC) the Home Office is proposing to run a different style of campaign this year.

We are making funds available to support local problem solving projects, which can address local priorities which stem from alcohol related issues. Unlike previous enforcement campaigns this year's campaign is much less prescriptive and will also enable partnerships to bid for varying amounts of money to undertake more protracted and in depth problem solving work.

This year we have set broad strategic objectives for the campaign, and have invited CDRPs/CSP's to submit bids, up to a maximum of £30,000. The following principles detailed in the Safe Sensible Social strategy will be considered in order to decide on funding.

The Government's vision is to produce a long-term and sustainable reduction in the harms associated with alcohol and drugs, where there is a safe, sensible and social drinking culture; where violent and antisocial behaviour is not tolerated; where young people are prevented from experiencing poor outcomes resulting from alcohol misuse; where those who drink alcohol are aware of the risks involved; and where those that are drinking too much receive the advice and support they need.

The Government's delivery strategy for reducing the harms caused by alcohol is divided into three strands:

> first, the laws and licensing powers introduced to tackle alcohol-fuelled crime and disorder, protect young people and bear down on irresponsibly managed premises need to be used widely and effectively;
>
> second, focusing prevention, information and support, and where appropriate the criminal justice system at the minority of drinkers who cause or experience the most harm to themselves, their communities and their families. These are: 18 to 24-year-old binge drinkers; young people under 18 who drink alcohol; and harmful drinkers; and
>
> third, collaborative work by all agencies to shape an environment that actively promotes sensible drinking. Delivery will draw on the knowledge, skills, commitment and ability of local communities, the police, local authorities, prison and probation staff, the NHS, third sector organisations, the alcohol industry, the wider business community and the media.

Completed bids will be submitted by 7 November 2008, and partnerships will be notified if their bid has been successful by 14 November 2008. Funded partnership activity can take place from this date through to the end of March 2009.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what measures are in place to punish offenders who breach antisocial behaviour orders; and if she will make a statement; [228718]

(2) how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders have resulted in a criminal conviction in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since their inception; [228720]

(3) how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders have been recorded in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since their inception. [228721]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Breach of an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) is a criminal offence and as such is dealt with by the courts in accordance with criminal law procedures.

There are a range of disposals available to the courts for those people who breach the conditions of their ASBOs. These range from fines to community sentences and custody. The maximum sentence for breach of an ASBO is five years imprisonment and/or a fine not exceeding £5,000 for an adult, and a two-year detention and training order (DTO) for a young person aged 12 to 17 years, of which 12 months is served in custody; the remainder is served in the community under the supervision of the youth offending team (YOT). A minor aged 10-11 cannot be given a term of detention but can receive a community penalty for breach of an ASBO.

Information collected centrally on the number of ASBO breaches relates only to those ASBOs proven in court to have been breached and is not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. The latest ASBO breach data are available for the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006 and the available information is show in the table.

Number of occasions in selected areas[1] and year between 1 June 2000[2] and 31 December 2006 where persons were proven in court to have breached their ASBO

	North East Region[3]	England and Wales
2000-2002[2]	110	777
2003	110	1,409
2004	218	3,997
2005	406	7,248
2006	377	7,755
Total	1,221	21,186

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of Breach.

[2] From 1 June 2000.

[3] North east Government office region is comprised of the Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria Criminal Justice System areas.

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

OCJR Court Proceedings Database. Prepared by OCJR Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Asylum: Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the cases resolved through the grant of leave to remain in the UK under the legacy exercise concerned individuals occupying accommodation provided under arrangements for asylum support; and how many of these have subsequently moved to social housing. [177335]

Mr. Woolas: We do not hold this information. To obtain this information would entail significant new work which would involve disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Iraq

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi nationals who worked for or on behalf of the Government and the armed forces in Iraq had been granted asylum in the UK as of 31 July 2008. [223839]

Mr. Woolas: The available information relates to Iraqi nationals under the scheme of assistance for locally engaged Iraqi staff.

A total of 14 people, consisting of five Iraqi nationals who worked for or on behalf of the Government and the armed forces in Iraq, plus their dependents, have been granted asylum in the UK and have been resettled as at 31 July 2008.

Since 31 July 2008, a further 89 people, consisting of 29 Iraqi nationals and their dependents, have been accepted for resettlement and are in the process of being resettled.

British Crime Survey

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued to interviewers conducting the British Crime Survey on interviewing in areas where they feel unsafe. [225220]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The Home Office commission BMRB Social Research to carry out the British Crime Survey on their behalf.

BMRB Social Research issues all their interviewers with guidelines on issues of personal safety based on those published by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

Cannabis

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent representations she has received on the sale of skunk cannabis seeds through online mail-order retailers; [229070]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of the number of people selling skunk cannabis seeds in England and Wales. [229071]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have received recent representations in respect of the sale of cannabis seeds on the high-street, including from the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake), but not in respect of the sale of "skunk cannabis seeds" through online mail-order retailers.

We have made no estimate of the number of people selling "skunk cannabis seeds" in England and Wales. The Government's position on cannabis seeds is tied in with the sale and promotion of drug paraphernalia. My officials are currently working with the Association of Chief Police Officers to look at how existing legislation and powers can be used more effectively by the police, local authorities and other partners to curtail the sale and promotion of drug paraphernalia as well as cannabis seeds by taking local, targeted action. The National Policing Improvement Agency is leading on drafting practice advice for police and partner agencies to tackle so-called 'head shops' that glamorise this trade. The agency's work is due to be completed by the end of February 2009. We should await the outcome of this work as it will inform the way forward.

Community Support Officers: Powers

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers police community support officers (PCSOs) have to *(a)* stop members of the public, *(b)* enter private property, *(c)* demand information from members of the public and *(d)* issue fixed penalty notices; and what offences may an individual be committing by not co-operating with a PCSO. [225211]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The full range of powers available to PCSOs are available at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/communitypolicing/List_of_Powers_of_Community1.pdf?view=Binary.

On the specific areas requested, a PCSO may *(a)* stop a member of the public in the course of the community support officer exercising his or her powers.

There is a specific power to stop and search under the Terrorism Act 2000 in authorised areas when in the company of and under the supervision of a constable.

On *(b)*, a constable may enter and search any premises for the purposes of saving life and limb or preventing serious damage to property; and may enter licensed premises under section 180 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the purposes of investigating relevant licensing offences.

On *(c)*, a PCSO may demand information which is necessary and relevant for them in the course of exercising their powers.

On *(d)*, a PCSO may issue a fixed penalty notice in respect of the following:

cycling on a footpath;
littering;
offences under dog control orders;
offences of disorder—there are 21 individual offences of disorder;
truancy;
excluded pupil found in a public place;
dog fouling;
graffiti and fly-posting.

Under section 46(2) of the Police Reform Act 2002, a person who resists or wilfully obstructs a designated person in the course of his duty is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to imprisonment of a term not exceeding one month or to a level 3 fine or both.

Crimes of Violence: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the trends in violent crime in Cornwall in the latest period for which figures are available. [221679]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

Violence against the person figures for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly basic command unit, from 2006-07 to 2007-08, are given in the table. These data include a percentage change between the two years and a rate per 1,000 population for 2007-08.

Violence against the person offences recorded in the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly basic command unit, 2006-07 to 2007-08

	Number/percentage
Population figures (thousand)	526
Offences recorded 2006-07	6,107
Offences recorded 2007-08	5,746
Percentage change 2006-07 to 2007-08	-6
Offences per 1,000 population 2007-08[1]	11

[1] All crime rates are based on mid-2005 population estimates supplied by the Office for National Statistics.

Crimes of Violence: Detection Rates

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the violent crime detection rate in England and Wales was in each of the last 10 years. [224469]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

Non-sanction detections that contribute to the detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason, overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From April 2007, the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Detection rates for violence against the person offences in England and Wales, from 1998-99 to 2007-08, are given in the tables.

Table 1: Detection rates for violence against the person offences in England and Wales, from 1998-99 to 2001-02

	Detection rate (Percentage)
1998-99	71
1999-2000	65
2000-01	62
2001-02	58

Note:
Figures in this table were prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table 2: Detection rates for violence against the person offences in England and Wales, from 2002-03 to 2007-08

	Detection rate (Percentage)
2002-03	54
2003-04	50
2004-05	53
2005-06	54
2006-07	51
2007-08	49

Notes:

1. Figures in this table are after the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
2. Includes the British Transport police from 2002-03 onwards.
3. It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason, overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007, the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Crimes of Violence: Homosexuality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the prosecution rate for homophobic hate crime detected by the Metropolitan Police was in each of the last five years. [227396]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences which are homophobic hate crimes. Such crimes are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics. In addition, it is not possible from the recorded crime data to track individual offences through to a conclusion.

Crimes of Violence: Public Transport

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violence against public transport staff were recorded in Greater London in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [225926]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

With regards to National Rail, London Underground, Docklands Light Railway and Croydon Tramlink, this information is held by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police,
25 Camden Road,
London,
NW1 9LN
Email: parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

Incidents on other public transport in London are dealt with by the Metropolitan Police and not the British Transport Police.

Criminal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people have a criminal record, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* ethnicity. [228248]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Figures on the proportions of the population with a criminal history in England and Wales can be found in "Criminal careers of those born between 1953 and 1978" at

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hosb401.pdf.

The bulletin gives figures for offenders who have had a court conviction for a 'standard list' offence. 'Standard list' offences include all indictable and certain of the more serious summary offences. The publication follows those born in the years 1953, 1958, 963, 1968, 1973 and 1978.

Customs Officers: Lancashire

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many customs officers are located at *(a)* Fleetwood, *(b)* Blackpool and *(c)* Glasson Dock in Lancashire. [223699]

Mr. Woolas: Neither the UK Border Agency nor HMRC release the numbers of front line Customs staff that they deploy at a local level as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221581]

Mr. Woolas: Where supply of accommodation is included within the terms of service contracts, the commercial value is secured through better service provision and reduced tender prices. Otherwise only on exceptional occasions, in the public interest, are rooms provided free or at discounted cost. No central records are kept of such exceptional events.

Departmental Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts her Department has with cleaning services providers; and what the hourly rate of pay for cleaners working in her Department is. [223873]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department does not have direct contracts with any of the cleaning contractors listed; however two of those contractors (ISS and GBM) do provide cleaning services to Home Office properties as subcontractors employed by our facilities management contractors.

The hourly rate of pay for cleaners varies from minimum wage up to £6.92 per hour depending on location and skills.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168588]

Mr. Woolas: In 2007 there were:

(a) No Home Office computers recorded as stolen.

(b) 12 laptops recorded as stolen.

The estimated value of these laptops is £8,200. This includes the cost of ensuring that the laptops meet the security standard required by the business process they support.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been agreed with each of her Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [229145]

Mr. Woolas: Home Office NDPBs are funded through grant in aid. Details of funding for 2008-09 can be found in the Home Office 2008-09 Main Estimate (HC 479) and on HM Treasury's website, available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/mainest08_11_ho.pdf

Indicative figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 can be found in Table 5.1 of the 2008 Departmental Report in Cm 7396 and on the Home Office website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-08.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by her Department in each of the last three years. [213528]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

(a) Figures for the purchase of furniture and fittings are available for 2005-06 (£4.767 million) and 2006-07 (£4.358 million).

(b) Art—I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 226W.

(c) My Department does not generally purchase vehicles as leasing provides a more cost-effective option. By sourcing through a Ministry of Justice contract leasing provides competitive costing arrangements while ensuring that the relatively small Home Office fleet is maintained to a high standard of serviceability to minimise carbon emissions and maximise economy.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day her Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226890]

Mr. Coaker: Details of how many and what proportion of named day parliamentary questions the Home Office has so far answered in the 2007-08 Session is given in the following table:

Session 2007-08[1]	*Number/percentage*
Named day questions received	1,096
Answered substantively on the named day[2]	319
Proportion answered substantively on the named day	29

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[1] To 16 October 2008

[2] All questions not answered substantively on the named day receive a holding answer.

Drugs: Crime Prevention

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crack house closure orders have been issued in England and Wales in each year since their introduction. [225218]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The available data are given in the following table.

Crack house closure orders issued by police forces, England and Wales, 2003-04 to 2006-07

	Crack house closure orders
2003-04	103
2004-05	284
2005-06	335
2006-07	429

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the classification regime for controlled drugs in meeting its objectives; and if she will make a statement. [227797]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* In replying to the Fifth Report of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee Session 2005-06 HC 1031 Drug Classification: "Making a hash of it?" the Government made their assessment that the classification system discharges its function fully and effectively. Our reply was published on 12 October 2006 (CM 6941) and is available at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/drug-strategy/drugclassification?view=Binary

Entry Clearances

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average waiting time for processing visa applications under *(a)* the highly skilled migrants programme and *(b)* tier 2 of the points-based system was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [223731]

Mr. Woolas: The highly skilled migrant programme was replaced by tier 1 of the points based system (PBS) on 30 June 2008. During July, the most recent period for which figures are available, the average processing time for visa applications under PBS tier 1 was 11.8 days. This does not include the time taken for applications to be couriered between visa application centres and decision-making posts. PBS tier 2 has not yet been implemented.

Entry Clearances: Foreign Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses had applied for licences to sponsor migrants as at 30 September 2008. [226054]

Mr. Woolas: The number of businesses which have applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants under the points based system is 3,340—this figure is rounded to the nearest five. A proportion of these applications are still awaiting payment and supporting documentation as businesses have up to 28 days to provide this information from the date of submission.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Genetics

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who were under the age of 18 years at the time they were arrested and had a DNA sample taken up to and including 1 December 2007 were subsequently not charged or cautioned for any offence; and if she will make a statement. [192969]

Meg Hillier: The national DNA database does not hold information on arrests, charges, cautions or convictions; this information is held on the police national computer (PNC). Information about the number of persons who were under 18 at the time they were arrested and have not been charged or cautioned with any offence could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, information on the number of persons who are currently under 18 who do not have a conviction, caution, reprimand, or received a final warning, and had no charge pending against them, is available. This was given in a reply to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1564-65W.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested *(a)* in each financial year since 1995 and *(b)* in each month since April 2007, who were (i) under 16, (ii) 16 to 18, (iii) 19 to 21 and (iv) over 21 years at the time of their arrest had their DNA profiles added to the national DNA database; and if she will make a statement. [196121]

Meg Hillier: The information requested on arrests is not available centrally. Information on arrests held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform is based on aggregated quarterly data collected at police force area level covering persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by gender, specific age groups (under 10,10-17,18-20, 21 and over and unknown), ethnicity and by main offence group only. The collection does not record whether DNA profiles were added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) at the time of arrest.

It is not possible to calculate the information requested by comparing arrest figures with figures for the number of people added to the NDNAD, because if the same person is arrested on more than one occasion during the year, that person will appear in the figures more than once. Also, the age groups used in the arrest figures differ from those in the question.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215097]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

(i)Communication Officers in the Home Office and its agencies are employed at the Senior Information Officer (SIO), Information Officer (IO) and Assistant Information Officer (AIO) grades.

The following table gives details of the staff currently employed by the Department in these grades:

	Grades			
	SIO	*IO*	*AIO*	*Total*
Home Office	23	27	2	52
UKBA	6	19	4	29
Total	29	46	6	81

Further information on communications staff employed by Departments throughout the civil service can be found in 'The White Book', published by COI. This is available in the Library of the House; and is updated twice yearly.

Other specialist and generalist staff across the organisation may have communications as a core part of their role, as good communication is integral to helping implement Government policy. However information on the numbers of staff in this category is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

(ii) The Government Communications Network is open to all staff within the Department who mainly work in a communication role. These individuals have exclusive access to networks, events and community tools (including forums and document sharing) on the GCN website. Information on the numbers involved is not held centrally and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of the legacy exercise for resolving old immigration cases. [177352]

Mr. Woolas: Total operating costs for the case resolution directorate in 2007-08 were £31.3 million. The indicative budget for 2008-09 is about £30 million. Budgets for the remaining period up to July 2011 have yet to be finalised.

Work on supported legacy cases in 2007-08 yielded savings to the asylum support budget of £22 million in 2007-08 and expected savings of £120 million in 2008-09

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for *(a)* indefinite leave to remain and *(b)* further leave to remain made in person at public enquiry offices were not processed within 24 hours in each of the last three years. [219356]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is in the following table.

Applications for (a) indefinite leave to remain and (b) further leave to remain made at a public enquiry office and percentage completed within 24 hours

Leave type		*Within 24 hours*	*Percentage of cases*
Indefinite LTR	2005	Within 24 hours	96
		Outside 24 hours	4
	2006	Within 24 hours	90

Applications for (a) indefinite leave to remain and (b) further leave to remain made at a public enquiry office and percentage completed within 24 hours

Leave type		*Within 24 hours*	*Percentage of cases*
		Outside 24 hours	10
	2007	Within 24 hours	90
		Outside 24 hours	10
Further LTR	2005	Within 24 hours	97
		Outside 24 hours	3
	2006	Within 24 hours	95
		Outside 24 hours	5
	2007	Within 24 hours	91
		Outside 24 hours	9

Notes:

1. Based on lead applications
2. Applications created by General or Employment Casework

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for *(a)* indefinite leave to remain and *(b)* further leave to remain were received in each of the last three years; and how many of these were (i) postal applications and (ii) applications made in person at public enquiry offices. [219429]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is in the following table.

Applications for (a) indefinite leave to remain and (b) further leave to remain by (i) postal and (ii) public enquiry office

Leave type		*Work type*	*Number of cases*
Indefinite LTR	2005	PEO	38,057
		Postal	88,926
	2005	Total	126,983
	2006	PEO	20,346
		Postal	79,244
	2006	Total	99,590
	2007	PEO	26,199
		Postal	64,682
	2007	Total	90,881
Indefinite LTR		Total	317,454
Further LTR	2005	PEO	55,996
		Postal	251,193
	2005	Total	307,189
	2006	PEO	60,668
		Postal	273,851
	2006	Total	334,519
	2007	PEO	55,125
		Postal	287,441
	2007	Total	342,566
Further LTR		Total	984,274

Notes:

1. Based on lead applications
2. Applications created by General or Employment Casework

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the target times for passengers to be processed through immigration controls at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick and *(c)* Stansted airports. [163785]

Mr. Woolas: We recognise that we have a responsibility to process genuine passengers without delay but the safety and security of the public is our priority.

The introduction of Service Level Agreements (SLA) is key to our commitment to improve the passenger arrival experience. SLAs will include standards on key metrics, such as queuing benchmarks. The agreements will be published and reviewed annually.

As part of the SLA negotiation process, we are working closely with airport and airline operators to reach agreement on the most effective way to measure queues at operational locations. There are currently arrangements in place at selected ports to benchmark performance. The three ports referred to in your question are using a 45 minute (non-EEA) and 25 minute (EEA) queuing time as such a benchmark. This is the maximum wait time in which we aim to process passengers and in turn informs staff deployment, as well as informing considerations on further investment. We are clear that the averages are well within these benchmarks but will continue to work on reducing the occasions where those figures are exceeded.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom through the long-term residence concession in each of the last five years. [225104]

Jacqui Smith: The provision to grant indefinite leave to remain (ILR) on the basis of long-term residence was introduced into the immigration rules in April 2003. Prior to this, a person could be granted ILR on a discretionary basis under the Long Residence concession.

Statistics on persons granted ILR under the Long Residency concession/immigration rules, in each of the years 2003 to 2007, are provided in the following table.

Grants of indefinite leave to remain under the Long Residency concession/immigration rules, excluding EEA nationals and Switzerland[1], 2003 to 2007, United Kingdom

Number of persons

Category of grant	*2003*	*2004*[2]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[3, 4]
Long Residency[5, 6, 7]	9,215	3,005	2,925	4,020	3,155

[1] Data from 2003 exclude dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships granted permanent residence.

[2] Includes nationals of the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.

[3] Excludes nationals from Bulgaria and Romania from 1 January 2007.

[4] Provisional.

[5] 10/14 years continuous residence.

[6] Includes persons granted settlement following application under the regularisation scheme for overstayers.

[7] Excludes dependants granted settlement in-line.

Note:

Data rounded to the nearest five.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter to her of 1 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs. N. Akhtar. [225956]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 15 October 2008.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department has allocated for *(a)* the policing and security of and *(b)* immigration work associated with the London 2012 Olympics. [227535]

Mr. Coaker: The total agreed envelope for additional Olympic 2012 policing and wider security spending is £600 million. The Home Office is likely to be the major contributor to this but money will be drawn from a number of different Departments. The £600 million envelope excludes spending being met by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) for requirements that fall within their remits.

A costed safety and security plan for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is currently being prepared. The plan will detail additional expenditure, including any that relates to immigration, policing and security, to ensure a safe and secure games. I anticipate that work on the costed security plan will be completed by the end of this year.

Passports

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passport applications were rejected in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* processing office and *(b)* reason for rejection. [225103]

Jacqui Smith: The information provided shows the number of applications that have been failed for nationality reasons and all other rejections.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Belfast						
Other reasons	1,461	1,611	2,029	2,350	1,727	9,178
Nationality grounds	210	236	199	255	275	1,175
Durham						
Other reasons	5,872	7,527	9,488	9,622	7,930	40,439
Nationality grounds	997	1,153	1,615	1,585	1,667	7,017
Glasgow						
Other reasons	2,720	2,863	3,252	2,934	2,358	14,127
Nationality grounds	246	307	329	296	335	1,513
Liverpool						
Other reasons	3,524	4,214	5,229	5,930	4,929	23,826
Nationality grounds	433	473	884	1,055	749	3,594
London						
Other reasons	613	350	561	447	389	2,360
Nationality grounds	4	1	0	1	1	7
Newport						
Other reasons	4,811	4,870	5,671	4,190	3,767	23,309
Nationality grounds	531	637	733	672	688	3,261
Peterborough						
Other reasons	8,912	6,756	6,667	6,823	5,452	34,610
Nationality grounds	3,279	3,096	2,428	2,091	1,974	12,868
Total						
Other reasons	27,913	28,191	32,897	32,296	26,552	147,849
Nationality grounds	5,700	5,903	6,188	5,955	5,689	29,435

Police: Leicestershire

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers and police community support officers are employed in Leicestershire constabulary. [228398]

Mr. Coaker: Leicestershire constabulary employed 2,241 police officers and 212 police community support officers as at 31 March 2008. These figures are both calculated on a full-time equivalent basis. These and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for previous years are available in the House of Commons Library.

Police: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications of the deficit in the Police Contributory Pension Fund. [229197]

Mr. Coaker: The Police Pension Scheme 1987 and the New Police Pension Scheme 2006 are both unfunded, so when benefits fall due for payment they are met from Government revenues. There is no actual pension fund or deficit. However, in any particular year, income from pensions contributions from police authorities and police officers is used to offset the costs of paying benefits to pensioners.

Police: Stun Guns

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ensure that police officers armed with stun guns only use them in exceptional circumstances and after approval from a senior officer has been obtained. [227809]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The police use of Taser is limited to trained officers in accordance with Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance. That guidance is clear that Taser use is currently restricted to authorised firearms officers (AFOs) where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the ACPO Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms. In addition AFOs are able to deploy Taser in operations or incidents where the use of firearms is not authorised, but where they are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves or the subject. A trial of the deployment of Taser in 10 police forces to specially trained police units not composed of firearms officers, for use when facing similar threats of violence, is currently being evaluated. The use of Taser in the trial is subject to the authority level of the appropriate authorising officer, thus placing it at the same authority level as for a firearms incident.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice she has issued to police on the use of stun guns against farm animals; and if she will make a statement. [227810]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The Home Office has issued no guidance to police on the use of Taser against farm animals. The police use of Taser is governed by Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what categories of public official may enter a private residence without the permission of the *(a)* owner and *(b)* occupier (i) with and (ii) without advance notice; and under what circumstances such entry may lawfully be made; [224462]

(2) which categories of public official may *(a)* enter a place of business and *(b)* call a halt to (i) trading and (ii) production (A) with and (B) without advance notice; and what the circumstances are in which such actions may lawfully be taken in each case. [224464]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* Powers of entry with or without warrant by definition do not require the consent of the owner or occupier of the premises. The list of powers of entry to all premises is contained on the Powers of Entry Review webpage at:

> http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operationalpolicing/powerspacecodes/powersofentryreview/.

The content of the list are currently subject to verification with other Government Departments and investigating agencies. Specific powers where prior notice is required are set out in the following table.

The ability to require a cessation to operating functions is an enforcement power. Such enforcement action would not be conditional on the exercise of a power of entry. The list sets out statute which provides for cessation and which also contains a power of entry.

Primary legislation

Statute	*Power*	*Who may enter*	*Other powers*
Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004	s.44: Powers of fire-fighters in an emergency.	Employee of fire and rescue authority in writing	May restrict access of persons to premises or place.
Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974	s.20: Powers of Inspectors.	Inspectors appointed under the Act	Comprehensive list of powers of examination/ investigation which includes power to direct that premises or parts are left undisturbed for as long as reasonably necessary to complete the examination.
Housing Act 2004	s.40 Emergency Remedial action.	Local housing authority	May take emergency remedial action.
	Sch. 3, para. 3: Entry by local housing authorities to take action regarding improvement Notices without agreement.	Local housing authority	Person authorised in writing by local housing authority may take action in relation to hazard

Secondary legislation

Statutory instrument (year/number)	*Power*	*Who may enter*	*Other powers*
Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No 2) Order 2006 [2006/2702]	Art 72(2): Entry to decide whether to grant/ maintain licence to move anything.	Inspector or person authorised by SoS	Article 82—general powers of inspectors when performing functions under this Order includes cleansing and disinfecting etc.
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (England) Order 2000 [20002056]	Art 10(3): Entry where notice served under (1) for purposes of cleansing and disinfection.	Veterinary Inspector	May cause to carry out cleansing disinfection -may recover expenses from person in default.
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (Wales) Order 2006 [2006/ 867]	Art 11(3): Entry where notice served under (1) for purposes of cleansing and disinfection.	Veterinary Inspector	May cause to carry out cleansing disinfection -may recover expenses from person in default.
Importation of Animal Pathogens Order 1980 [1980/212]	Art 6(5): Entry by inspectors where notice served under para (3) regarding cleansing and disinfecting not complied with.	Veterinary Inspector	May cause to carry out cleansing disinfection.
Marketing of Fruit Plant Material Regulations 1995 [1995/ 2653]	Reg 12(1): Entry to ascertain whether a contravention of these regulations.	Inspector	May serve notice on supplier of failure to comply with regulation 5(a) and require not to move/ market plant material until reasonable measures specified in notice carried out.

Secondary legislation

Statutory instrument (year/number)	*Power*	*Who may enter*	*Other powers*
Marketing of Ornamental Plant Propagating Material Regulations 1999(1999/180]	Reg 13(1): Entry to ascertain whether a contravention of these regulations.	Inspector	May serve notice on supplier of failure to comply with these regulations and require not to move/ market propagating material until such reasonable measures specified in notice carried out.
Marketing of Vegetable Plant Material Regulations 1995 [1995/ 2652]	Reg 11 (1): Entry to ascertain whether a contravention of these regulations..	Inspector	May serve notice on supplier of failure to comply with regulation 5(a) and require not to move/ market plant material until such reasonable measures specified in notice are carried out.
Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 [1997/ 1729]	Reg 16: Entry following failure to comply with notice served under these regulations.	Veterinary Inspector	May take or cause to be taken such necessary steps to ensure compliance with requirements of notice. Costs may be recoverable.
Gas Safety (Rights of Entry) Regulations 1996 [1996/ 2535]	Reg 4 (1): Entry by gas transporter to deal with gas escapes of gas conveyed by the transporter.	Officer authorised by transporter	Carry out work necessary to prevent the escape of gas and take any other steps to avert danger to life or property.
	Reg 5: Power to enter premises for purposes of inspection, testing, disconnection etc.	Officer authorised by the relevant authority	If necessary to avert danger to life or property, disconnect and seal off any gas fitting or any part of the gas system, or disconnect the premises, or if not connected, signify refusal to convey gas to premises etc.
Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996 [1996/ 551]	Reg 7 (4) and (5): Entry to relevant place by person conveying gas when carrying out duty to prevent gas escaping.	Person conveying gas	Take all steps necessary to avert danger to persons from entry of gas.
Submarine Pipe-lines (Inspectors etc) Regulations 1977 [1977/ 835]	Art3(1)(b): Entry to premises for purposes of inspecting pipe-lines.	Inspector appointed by SoS .	If risk of Sch. 1 occurrence (concern actual or potential danger etc.) require remedial/ preventative action, shut down if serious risk.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many powers of entry have been established in legislation introduced by her Department since 1997; and how many have been abolished. [228059]

Mr. Coaker: Further to my reply to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) answered on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W, a revised table has been placed in the House Library showing powers of entry introduced since 1997.

The revised table identifies that there are currently 73 primary enactments and 202 statutory instruments containing reference to a power of entry in England and Wales that are in effect and have been introduced since 1997 .

We have not collected information on the number of powers that have been repealed or revoked since 1997. This is because the review is focusing on the development of a framework for existing and future powers.

Racially Aggravated Offences: Detection Rates

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the prosecution rate was for racist hate crime detected by the Metropolitan Police in each of the last five years. [227420]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is not available centrally. While the Home Office collects statistics on racially or religiously aggravated offences detected by the police, it is not possible to determine those which result in a prosecution.

Redundancy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the cost of redundancies in her Department arising from the conclusions of the Gershon review. [217324]

Jacqui Smith: It is not possible to identify the number of early departures, the exact nature and circumstances of individual departures or associated costs that have occurred in the Home Office as a direct result of the Gershon review without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Central information held on early departures does not distinguish between those who might have been compelled to leave the Department on compulsory redundancy terms, and those who wished to leave voluntarily on similar terms. It would be necessary to review individual files to extract the information requested.

Work Permits

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permit applications were outstanding at the time of the replacement of the work permit scheme. [223732]

Mr. Woolas: The points system will go live later in the autumn.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Accounting

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 15 September

2008, *Official Report*, column 2016W, on the departmental internet, when the Cabinet Office's resource accounts will be audited; and when the audited accounts will be published. [227465]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office expects its resource accounts for the year ending 31 March 2009 to be audited and published shortly before the summer parliamentary recess in 2009.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226412]

Mr. Watson: The information requested is a matter of public record. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1185W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226955]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety.

Cuba: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if the Government will provide humanitarian aid to Cuba following the recent hurricanes. [228804]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £250,000 in direct humanitarian aid to Cuba through the International Red Cross for shelter material and water filters for some 40,000 people. In addition, the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has announced a relief contribution of €2 million, of which 17.5 per cent. is funded by DFID. The United Nations Relief Agencies have mobilised $8.6 million for relief and rehabilitation works in Cuba, $1.6 million of which is funded by DFID through the UN. However, the UN remains in negotiation with the Cuban authorities on full access and co-operation in order to use that money. We also understand that the Cuban Government has received offers totalling $30.5 million from a number of countries to assist with their reconstruction and emergency response efforts following the impact of the recent hurricanes.

Departmental Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department's budget was allocated between the different functions of the Department in the most recent year for which figures are available. [227493]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Budget information for the financial year 2008-09 at a divisional/sub-division level is detailed in the following table.

Division / Subdivisions	*£ 000* *2008-09*
Corporate Performance	
Top Management Group	4,580
Information Systems Division Level	12,656
Finance and Corporate Performance Division	7,258
Human Resources Division	54,153
Communications Division	33,741
Internal Audit	1,300
Evaluation Department	4,302
Centrally Managed Costs and Contingency	205,233
Policy And International	
International Finance and Development Effectiveness	985,615
Policy and Research Division	503,862
United Nations, Conflict and Humanitarian Div	417,163
Europe and Donor Relations Division	1,084,247
Regional Programmes	
Pan-Africa Strategy and Programmes	87,461
South Asia Division	700,829
Europe, Middle East, Americas and Central and East Asia	403,219
West and Southern Africa	539,677
East and Central Africa	707,893
Grand Total	5,748,609

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228419]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information required cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [228657]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has one non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC). The CSC reports annually to Parliament through the Secretary of State for International Development. Copies of its report are placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staff level of his Department's (i) Corporate Performance Division and each of its subdivisions, (ii) Policy and Research Division and each of its subdivisions, (iii) International Division and each of its subdivisions and (iv) Country Programmes Division and each of its subdivisions (A) was in each of the last three years and (B) is projected to be in each of the next three years. [225579]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Table 1 details the staffing levels for home civil service staff and staff appointed in country for each of DFID's division and subdivisions. The figures from 2006 to 2008 show the numbers of full-time equivalent staff as at end of March for each of those years. Part-time staff are counted according to the percentage of full-time hours worked. Projected staffing levels are shown for March 2011. This is currently being reviewed.

Table 2 details budget planning levels from 2005-06 to 2010-11. Final divisional allocations for 2008-09 to 2010-11 will be subject to further revision based on operational demands of the government's aid programme.

Various divisional restructures have occurred over the last three years and both tables are mapped as closely as possible to the most up-to-date current reporting structures.

Table 1: DFID actual staff in post (full-time equivalent) levels by division for 2006 to 2008; plus projections of staff levels for 2009 to 2011

	March 2006			*March 2007*			*March 2008*			*Projection of total posts for March 2011*		
Division	*HCS*	*SAIC*	*Total*	*HCS*	*SAIC*	*Total*	*HCS*	*SAIC*	*Total*	*HCS*	*SAIC*	*Total*
Corporate performance												
Business Solutions	87	0	87	83	5	88	84	9	93	100	19	119
Communications	131	0	131	81	0	81	69	0	69	96	0	96
Finance and Corporate Performance	210	0	210	218	0	218	188	2	190	137	4	141
Human Resources	242	0	242	215	0	215	196	0	196	176	12	188
Sub totals	670	0	670	597	5	602	537	11	548	509	35	544
Policy and research												
Policy and research	222	0	222	224	0	224	210	0	210	195	0	195
Sub totals	222	0	222	224	0	224	210	0	210	195	0	195
International												
Europe and donor relations division	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	60	0	60	74	0	74	91	0	91
International finance and development effectiveness	62	0	62	59	0	59	56	0	56	63	0	63
United Nations, conflict and humanitarian	104	3	107	105	7	112	96	8	104	103	5	108
Sub totals	166	3	169	224	7	171	226	8	234	257	5	262
Country programmes												
Africa	303	448	751	294	412	706	264	400	664	237	366	603
Europe, middle east, Americas central and east Asia	161	118	279	154	111	265	177	177	354	143	113	256
South Asia	180	362	542	166	325	491	120	227	347	113	228	341
Sub totals	644	928	1572	614	848	1,462	561	804	1,365	493	707	1,200
Sub-division (not included in above divisions)												
Seconded from	33	1	34	2	0	2	6	0	6	0	0	0
Top management group	36	0	36	30	0	30	40	1	41	42	0	42
Unallocated	30	0	30	28	5	33	32	10	42	0	0	0
Sub totals	99	1	100	60	5	65	78	11	89	42	0	42
Grand totals	1,801	932	2,733	1,719	865	2,524	1,612	834	2,446	1,496	747	2,243

[1] Division did not exist at March 2006

Table 2: DFID resource budget figures by division and sub-division from 2005-06 to 2010-11

Division/subdivisions	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*£000* *2010-11*
Corporate performance						
Top management group	3,790	3,551	4,100	4,580	4,475	4,371
Information systems division level	12,123	18,823	18,409	12,656	12,275	11,748
Finance and corporate performance division	13,677	12,080	8,389	7,258	6,413	5,979
Human resources division	35,415	36,531	51,524	54,153	43,907	34,472
Communications division	14,660	23,000	22,834	33,741	40,573	48,951
Internal audit	713	800	800	1,300	1,300	1,302
Evaluation department	3,562	2,700	3,669	4,302	86,300	5,279
Centrally managed costs and contingency	101,300	96,500	97,412	205,233	406,000	589,000
Policy and international						
International finance and development effectiveness	667,493	1,173,975	937,536	985,615	1,327,200	1,575,214
Policy and research division	316,445	267,044	386,227	503,862	646,964	839,155
United Nations, conflict and humanitarian division	423,123	408,394	419,969	417,163	440,787	496,114
Europe and donor relations division	885,596	912,817	994,000	1,084,247	1,209,755	1,312,727
Regional programmes						
Pan-Africa strategy and programmes	50,000	57,280	56,741	87,461	234,163	351,211
South Asia division	589,700	603,167	657,703	700,829	735,809	808,139
Europe, middle east, Americas and central and east Asia	380,518	341,622	376,919	403,219	411,917	383,782
West and southern Africa	427,500	416,842	543,211	539,677	563,585	606,214
East and central Africa	551,000	589,436	704,900	707,893	757,848	848,125
Grand total	4,472,825	4,961,011	5,280,323	5,748,609	6,843,796	7,917,412

Notes:
1. Centrally managed costs line includes depreciation, corporate IT systems and all budget contingency reserves for 2008-09 onwards.
2. Human Resources includes office services and costs and Overseas Pensions.
3. Europe and Donor Relations Division includes EC attribution.

Food: Prices

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written statement of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 100WS, on rising food prices (international impact), how much budgetary support has been advanced; to which countries; how much his Department has spent on additional payments to date; and which countries have received such payments. [228569]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has made no advance budget support payments in support of the food crisis this year, since those countries most affected by the crisis are not currently budget support recipients. We will continue to review the need to use advance budget support payments to manage the impact of high food and fuel prices on developing countries.

Since 1 January this year, DFID has given £331.2 million of budget support to eight countries in Africa and south Asia, shown in the following table. Further budget support is likely to be made this financial year. The level of funding reflects the additional burden being placed on these countries as a result of higher food and fuel prices, and will help their governments to respond flexibly to evolving needs.

	£ million *PRBS disbursed since 1 January 2008*
Ethiopia	50.4
Ghana	53.8
Malawi	11.3
Mozambique	49.2
Rwanda	33
Sierra Leone	10
Tanzania	103.5
Pakistan	20

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written statement of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 100WS, on rising food prices (international impact), how much of the £30 million identified for support for the World Food Programme has been spent to date; on what dates such payments were made; and what quantity of food has been purchased as a result, broken down by food type. [228570]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of disbursement of the additional £30 million contribution to the World Food Programme, announced on 22 April 2008, are as follows:

Country	£ million	Date payment made	Quantity of food purchased to date (mt)	Type of food purchased to date
Iraq	2	17 June	3,940	Beans, rice
Kenya	5	13 August	10,209	Maize
Somalia	9	29 August	14,543	Maize, sorghum, millet
Uganda	4	[1]—	—	—
Yemen	1	17 June	3,239	Beans, iodised salt, sugar, vegetable oil, wheat
Zimbabwe	9	1 September	23,355	Maize

[1] Not yet made

Middle East: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in *(a)* the west bank and *(b)* the Gaza strip. [228204]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We remain concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and continue to monitor it closely.

In Gaza, 69 per cent. of the population receive some form of food aid. Over 95 per cent. of businesses have closed and unemployment is over 45 per cent.. Health and educational services are under severe strain and the economy has been severely affected by crossing restrictions. Since the ceasefire began in June there have been some improvements. For example, projects to repair sewage treatment facilities have restarted and fuel supplies to the Gaza power plant have increased. However, the overall flow of humanitarian supplies, commercial goods and people into Gaza has only improved marginally.

In the west bank, 25 per cent. of the population is affected by food insecurity and unemployment is over 16 per cent. Due to falling incomes and continuing rises in food prices, people in the west bank now spend 56 per cent. of their income on food. Movement and access restrictions continue to hold back economic growth and to affect the daily life of ordinary Palestinians. In August, the United Nations counted 630 physical obstacles such as roadblocks and checkpoints in the west bank. This is almost 68 per cent. higher than when the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access was signed.

Sudan: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [228205]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Widespread violence continues to cause large-scale displacements and restrict humanitarian access. Across Darfur, over 270,000 have been newly displaced so far in 2008. In September, fighting between government forces and rebel groups in North Darfur displaced tens of thousands and hindered humanitarian access. In the last two weeks, militia attacks have increased in South Darfur, displacing thousands. The World Food Programme (WFP) expects that it will not be able to reach 450,000 intended beneficiaries with food aid in September.

Meanwhile, increasing numbers of humanitarian workers are subjected to targeted attacks. So far in 2008, 225 humanitarian vehicles have been hijacked, 170 humanitarian workers abducted, and 144 compounds attacked. The equivalent figures for September are 17, 15 and 21 respectively. Totals are already significantly above 2007 figures.

Distribution of rainy season non-food items has been ongoing throughout Darfur. WFP and its implementing partners continue to deliver food aid to almost 3.5 million people. Our implementing partners continue to address priority needs for IDPs in all three states in Darfur across a range of sectors.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2003-04 and *(e)* 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227050]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: It is not possible to disaggregate costs in respect of taxi expenses across all offices of the Department for International Development (DFID), without incurring a disproportionate cost. The figures provided include costs for contracted taxi and privately arranged hire for UK based staff costs for the years specified and are detailed:

	£
2006-07	243,363
2005-06	328,383
2004-05	243,300
2003-04[1]	143,447
2002-03[1]	105,908

[1] Taxi costs incurred by members of staff outside the central contracts are not available in these years centrally and could not be provided without incurring a disproportionate cost.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children who were adopted aged *(a)* under one, *(b)* one to four, *(c)* five to nine and *(d)* 10 to 15 years old achieved five or more A* to C grades at GCSE in each of the last 10 years; [228723]

(2) how many children who, at the time they sat GCSEs, were *(a)* adopted, *(b)* in foster care, *(c)* in foster care with relatives or friends and *(d)* in children's homes achieved five or more A* to C grades at GCSE in each of the last 10 years. [228724]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not held centrally by the Department.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [228671]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: The funding that has been agreed with each of DCSF's non-departmental bodies for the period 2008 to 2011 is detailed in the following table.

£ million

Non-departmental public body	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total for CSR07*
The British, Educational, Telecommunications and Technology Agency (BECTA)	11	11	11	33
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	113	122	131	366
National College of School Leadership (NCSL)	98	82	82	262
Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC)	3	3	3	9
Partnerships for Schools (PfS)	8	8	8	24
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)	176	110	113	399
School Food Trust (SFT)	8	7	6	21
Training and Development Agency (TDA) for schools	724	632	611	1,967
Total budget of NDPBs	1,141	975	965	3,048

Education Maintenance Allowance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time taken to process a claim for the education maintenance allowance was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [227942]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive has written to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 21 October 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked:- what the average time taken to process a claim for tie education maintenance allowance was in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Due to the difficulties we are currently experiencing with EMA processing, it is difficult to be precise about the average time taken to process an application. We are seeking to improve it all the time.

Each year a substantial minority of applications are received with information missing. In these cases, they will have to be sent back to the applicant who is asked to provide the information and return it to us. We can only continue processing that application once it is sent back to us.

In all cases where an application is initially received before the end of October and an applicant is eligible for EMA all payments will be backdated and no one will miss out for EMA that they are entitled to.

Social Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many out-of-area placements were made by each social services department in the most recent year for which figures are available. [228645]

Beverley Hughes: Information showing placements for looked after children by local authorities inside and outside their boundary can be found in table A6 (at national level) and tables LAA16 and LAA17 (at local authority level). These tables are taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007'.

The SFR is located at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml.

Table A6 can be found within the first set of additional Excel tables and tables LAA16 and LAA17 can be found within the second set of additional tables on the website.

Table A6 for the year ending 31 March 2008 will be released on the internet on 23 October while tables LAA16 and LAA17 are due for release mid-November.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2003-04 and *(e)* 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227045]

Ed Balls: Details of expenditure on taxi travel claimed by departmental officials for 2006-07 and 2005-06 are set out as follows:

	£
2006-07	268,857
2005-06	113,810

The expenditure is based on staff travel claims and approved invoices received from taxi companies paid via the Department's integrated financial information system. Expenditure on taxi travel in the three financial years prior to 2005 was recorded under a general heading of travel expenses; the Department is unable to separately identify the cost of taxi fares for these years. To extract the specific financial data requested would involve disproportionate cost.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a machinery of government change and the expenditure recorded relates to that of its predecessor Department, the Department for Education and Skills.

Teachers: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the implications of the deficit in the Teachers Contributory Pension Fund. [229199]

Jim Knight: The Teachers' Pension Scheme is unfunded, so when benefits fall due for payment they are met from Government revenues. There is no actual pension fund or deficit. However, in any particular year, income from contributions from employers and employees is used to offset the costs of paying benefits to pensioners.

Teaching Methods

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what role the Assessing Pupil Progress approach has in the implementation of his Department's policy on personalised learning; and if he will make a statement. [228907]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Teachers themselves are best placed to decide how to personalise their teaching and to select appropriate interventions from a range of approaches and support mechanisms. The Department will publish practical guidance on personalising learning for school leaders, School Improvement Partners and teachers in November. The Assessing Pupils' Progress (APP) materials provide teachers with an effective tool to help them form robust judgments about pupils' progression through national curriculum levels and sub-levels. Teachers are able to see a pupil's relative strengths and weaknesses and it is this diagnostic potential of APP, linked to clear routes for progression through the levels, which enables teachers to personalise teaching to address pupils' strengths and weaknesses, and so support them to make the best possible progression.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the apprentice matching service contract signed with *(a)* CAP Gemini and *(b)* S-Cool. [229041]

Mr. Simon: The National Apprenticeships Vacancy Matching Service is being developed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to provide a high quality service to employers wishing to recruit apprentices, and to young people and adults considering an apprenticeship. This service will help deliver the objective outlined in World-class Apprenticeships to expand and improve the quality of our apprenticeships programme. The LSC is contracting with Capgemini for the provision of the IT system. The LSC is separately contracting with S-Cool for apprenticeship on-line pilots in three areas, including Hampshire. Contracts for goods and services are commercially sensitive and cannot be made available to right hon. and hon. Members. I have asked Mark Haysom, chief executive of the LSC, to write to the right hon. Member, copying his reply to me, outlining the Vacancy Matching Service and Capgemini's role in supplying these services.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* non-advanced apprenticeship places and *(b)* advanced apprenticeship places there were within each (i) local authority and (ii) county council administration at the latest date for which information is available. [229044]

Mr. Simon: Apprenticeships are demand-led and employer responsive; therefore the number of apprenticeship places available is determined by the number of places employers are able to offer and subject to learner demand. That is why, in terms of monitoring performance, we focus on the number of people who actually start on an apprenticeship programme.

"World-class Apprenticeships" confirmed our commitment to stimulate a greater supply of apprenticeship places with employers. This is a key element of the remit of the new National Apprenticeship Service and its National Vacancy Matching Service which will help employers advertise apprenticeships vacancies and enable prospective apprentices to apply for them online.

The latest fully audited data that we have is for the 2006/07 academic year is contained in tables, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries. Table 1 shows apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 by level of apprenticeship and local education authority. Table 2 shows apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 by county council type, for each different county council administration.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how long on average it took to complete applications for education maintenance allowance from application to confirmation of award in the 10 per cent. of cases which took longest to process in the latest period for which figures are available. [225131]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the educational maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive has written to the right hon. Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 21 October 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked:- "how long on average it took to complete applications for education maintenance allowance (EMA) from application to confirmation of award in the 10 per cent of cases which took longest to process" and "what the average time taken to complete applications for EMA was from receipt of application to confirmation of award in the latest period for which figures are available".

Due to the difficulties we are currently experiencing with EMA processing. It is difficult to be precise about the average time taken to process an application. We are seeking to improve it all the time.

Each year a substantial minority of applications are received with information missing. In these cases, they will have to be sent back to the applicant who is asked to provide the information and return it to us. We can only continue processing that application once it is sent back to us.

In all cases where an application is initially received before the end of October and an applicant is eligible for EMA all payments will be backdated and no one will miss out for EMA that they are entitled to.

JUSTICE

Convictions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted in each of the last 10 years had never previously been convicted, broken down by police force area. [228247]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows figures taken from the Ministry of Justice's extract from the Police National Computer (PNC). It shows the number of people convicted of indictable offences in each year since 2000 who at the time of their conviction had no previous convictions recorded on the PNC. The table covers offences prosecuted by police forces in England and Wales; offences prosecuted by other authorities are not included.

These figures have been derived from the police's administrative I.T. system, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Offenders with no previous convictions convicted for indictable offences by police force, 2000-07

number of offenders

Police Force	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	1,401	1,270	1,207	1,260	1,159	1,265	1,231	1,283
Bedfordshire	668	590	487	579	601	608	750	604
Cambridgeshire	618	684	718	702	796	951	814	842
Cheshire	1,327	1,166	1,027	909	789	935	1,011	999
City of London	171	171	180	231	256	229	237	297
Cleveland	774	662	597	735	669	609	673	729
Cumbria	553	536	499	528	580	644	578	615
Derbyshire	1,127	1,039	1,082	1,047	1,059	1,137	900	990
Devon and Cornwall	1,282	1,287	1,395	1,304	1,351	1,314	1,166	1,159
Dorset	658	642	616	629	608	610	655	666
Durham	760	736	717	627	681	796	749	710
Dyfed-Powys	607	526	544	551	435	504	446	468
Essex	1,506	1,481	1,403	1,362	1,691	1,752	1,659	1,645
Gloucestershire	535	570	435	423	433	498	487	540
Greater Manchester	3,756	3,601	3,715	3,735	4,102	4,086	3,813	3,693
Gwent	946	880	871	772	693	513	566	563
Hampshire	1,960	1,969	1,845	1,884	1,925	1,804	1,641	1,803
Hertfordshire	942	941	971	1,002	1,105	1,200	1,030	1,061
Humberside	1,150	1,114	1,156	1237	1,099	925	944	978
Kent	1,947	1,793	1,710	1,863	1,577	1,432	1,398	1,528
Lancashire	1,713	1,659	1,648	1,492	1,329	1,320	1,541	1,974
Leicestershire	1,220	1254	1,192	1,233	1,264	1,164	976	1,013
Lincolnshire	542	589	555	553	628	643	583	557
Merseyside	1847	1,748	1,883	1,964	1,867	1,702	1,676	1,966
Metropolitan Police	1,1678	11,965	13,134	12,480	11,750	11,486	11,823	12,578
Norfolk	829	785	745	773	642	693	799	782
North Wales	895	748	676,	744	787	784	849	798
North Yorkshire	850	743	749	786	754	912	787	820
Northamptonshire	677	570	517	568	626	625	548	715
Northumbria	2,115	2,102	2,021	1,903	1,742	1,618	1,650	1,572
Nottinghamshire	1,605	1,523	1,337	1,324	1,230	1,283	1,166	1,129
South Wales	1,925	2,062	1,957	1,804	1,738	1,539	1,266	1,280
South Yorkshire	1,841	1,743	1,684	1,666	1,430	1,494	1,408	1,485
Staffordshire	1,177	1,110	1,194	1,044	1,120	1,127	985	1,009
Suffolk	706	646	618	782	769	751	697	625
Surrey	565	634	562	565	557	579	602	715
Sussex	1,309	1,365	1,325	1,282	1,359	1,339	1,499	1,620
ThamesValley	1,809	1,952	1,846	1,730	1,576	2,027	2,003	1,991
Warwickshire	454	392	362	343	377	390	450	405
West Mercia	1,045	1,076	1,036	1,031	1,033	1,123	1,082	1,035
West Midlands	4,745	5106	4,924	4,581	4,152	3,401	3,773	3,779
West Yorkshire	2,777	2,454	2,463	2,496	2,649	2,340	2,115	2,162
Wiltshire	690	672	542	555	517	634	600	429
England and Wales	65,702	64,556	64,145	63,079	61,505	60,786	59,626	61,612

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many agencies were sponsored by his Department or its predecessors in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228515]

Mr. Wills: The 'Next Steps Report 1997' (Cm3889) provides information on all executive agencies as at 31 December 1997. Copies are available from the Library of the House. The most up-to-date list of executive agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication

'The List of Ministerial Responsibilities'. The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Employment Tribunals

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that employers act upon the decisions of employment tribunals regarding monetary awards to claimants. [228478]

Bridget Prentice: There are provisions in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 to simplify the current system for enforcing unpaid employment tribunal awards in the county court. Once implemented these provisions will allow the applicant to go straight to enforcement rather than through registration at a county court. Additionally, for the first time, the award will be registered on the Register of Judgments, Orders and Fines. Inclusion on this register, which is often consulted by banks, building societies and credit companies when considering applications for credit, may make it more difficult for defaulters to obtain credit and therefore provides an incentive to pay the sum due. This provision will ease the burden on the recipients of tribunal awards and it is intended to implement this provision in April 2009.

HMP Whitemoor

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there has been a Prison Officers' Association staff vote of no confidence in the Governor of HMP Whitemoor in the last three months. [228483]

Mr. Hanson: This is a matter for the POA and Government cannot answer on their behalf.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227058]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is as follows.

Ministry of Justice HQ and Associated Offices, HM Courts Service, HM Prison Service, Tribunals Service, Office of the Public Guardian

It is not possible to determine how much was spent on taxis in the last five years, as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's financial systems. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

National Offender Management Service—Centre

		£
	2005-06	*2006-07*
Total	63,754	72,403

Spend for years prior to 2005-06 could be provided only at disproportionate cost as there was a change to the financial system used within NOMS.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

		£
	2005-06	*2006-07*
Total	11,651	13,570

Spend for years prior to 2005-06 could be provided only at disproportionate cost as there was a change to the financial system used within OCJR.

All official travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively. Copies of these are available in the Library of the House.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 23 October 2008

WALES

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what IT projects his Department is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the completion date of each is. [229173]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228784]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In the last 12 months my Department has spent £24,875 on overnight accommodation for civil servants.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228741]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not require applicants for its posts to provide their dates of birth.

This information is therefore not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Wales Office has a number of staff in post that are above the ages of *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 respectively.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Fraud

7. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent discussions the Committee has had with the Electoral Commission on its role in preventing electoral fraud. [229210]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Speaker's Committee meets the Electoral Commission regularly to discuss the full range of its activities, including its important work to prevent electoral fraud.

The Commission informs me that it continues to issue detailed guidance and works with returning officers, electoral registration officers, political parties, the Crown Prosecution Service and the police on strategies for preventing and detecting electoral malpractice. The Commission also continues to call for the introduction of individual electoral registration.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226513]

Mr. Woodward: Expenditure on Government-commissioned advertising is included within the framework of the Northern Ireland Office's procurement policy which aims to achieve "best value for money" in the procurement of goods and services over the lifetime of a contract. This allows wider policy objectives to be considered in the procurement process so that it meets the tests of need, affordability and cost-effectiveness and complies with the UK's EC and international obligations.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Metal Theft

6. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent representations the Church Commissioners have received on the levels of theft of lead, copper and other materials from church roofs; and if he will make a statement. [229209]

Sir Stuart Bell: None. However, the Archbishops Council continues to work with parishes and dioceses, insurers and the police to try to solve this serious problem. By way of a statement, churches not only have to replace the stolen metals; they also have to contend with damage to masonry and timber, and other problems caused by leaking rainwater. It is a serious problem which the Church is working hard to solve.

Bats

8. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what estimate the Commissioners have made of the number of cases of damage to historic churches caused by bats. [229211]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Church of England does not hold such figures centrally but I know that the damage and hygiene issues caused by bats remain a concern for some parishes and the Archbishops Council continues to discuss it with other relevant parties.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many agencies were sponsored by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228502]

Mr. Hoon: The 'Next Steps Report 1997' (Cm 3889) provides information on all executive agencies as at 31 December 1997. Copies are available from the Library of the House. The present Department for Transport was established in 2002. The most up-to-date list of executive agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication 'The List of Ministerial Responsibilities'. The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

M1: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason fencing is being erected adjacent to the southbound carriageway south of junction 8 of the M1; and what the cost is of such fencing. [226274]

Paul Clark: The fencing to the south of junction 8 of the M1 is an environmental barrier and is a public inquiry commitment. 900 m of 3 m high barrier is being provided to reduce the visual impact to properties on the eastern side of the motorway.

The cost of installing the fencing is £288,000.

Public Transport

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what official visits he and his immediate predecessor undertook using public transport in the last 12 months. [228938]

Mr. Hoon: My predecessor undertook 14 official visits using public transport in the last 12 months to the following locations: Ashford, Manchester (three times), Birmingham (three times), Heathrow Airport (twice), Bradford, Derby (twice), Brussels and La Rochelle. I have, so far, undertaken one, to Luxembourg. Her travel, and mine, will be undertaken by the most efficient and cost-effective means possible, in line with the provisions of the Ministerial Code.

Public Transport: Concessions

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timescale is for research to be carried out on the way concessionary travel is administered; who has been commissioned to undertake the research; what methodology will be followed by the researchers; and whom they intend to consult. [229073]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has commissioned WS Atkins and the Institute for Transport Studies (ITS) in Leeds university to carry out research into concessionary fares reimbursement. This work should be completed by the end of 2009. The research will explore the latest evidence on the number of extra trips generated by the free national scheme, the revenue foregone by bus operators and the additional costs. The researchers will work closely with bus operators and local authorities, other stakeholders and academics.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in his (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220179]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson), the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 651-52W.

Income Support: Disabled

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claims for income support on the grounds of incapacity for work for which the claimant did not qualify for the disability premium through income support were awarded to *(a)* single persons aged under 35, *(b)* single persons aged 35 to 44, *(c)* single persons aged 35 to 65, *(d)* couples with a claimant aged under 35, *(e)* couples with a claimant aged 35 to 44 and *(f)* couples with a claimant aged 35 to 65, in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [224157]

James Purnell: The available information has been placed in the Library.

National Insurance

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many national insurance numbers were issued to dependants of work permit holders in each year from 2002 to 2007; [227448]

(2) how many national insurance numbers have been issued to dependants of work permit holders in 2008. [227450]

Mr. McNulty: A holding reply was sent on 16 October 2008.

The requested information is not available.

Winter Fuel Payments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which areas are covered by each weather station used to assess the temperature for the purpose of cold weather payments. [226184]

Kitty Ussher: Under the cold weather payment scheme, every residential postcode is linked to one of 76 weather stations. I have placed a table of the list of the weather stations used to collect information in order to assess entitlement to cold weather payments and the linked postcode districts in the Library.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Fraud

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what criteria are applied by the *(a)* Serious Fraud Office and *(b)* Fraud Prosecution Service to determine whether to accept a case. [229420]

The Solicitor-General: The key criterion used by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) when deciding whether to accept a case is that the suspected fraud appears to be so serious or complex that its investigation should be carried out by those responsible for its prosecution.

Other factors taken into consideration when deciding whether to accept a case are as follows:

Whether the value of the alleged fraud exceeds £1 million;

If the case has a significant international dimension;

If the case is likely to be of widespread public concern;

If the case requires highly specialised knowledge. For example, of financial markets;

If there is a need to use the SFO's special powers, such as section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act.

The SFO could not—and does not—take on every referred case of suspected fraud. SFO resources must be focused on major and complicated fraud. Cases which do not meet the SFO's case acceptance criteria may be referred to other authorities for investigation and prosecution.

The Fraud Prosecution Service (FPS), which prosecutes fraud cases throughout England and Wales, accepts cases which meet one or more of the following criteria: the allegations involve a loss, or risk of loss, of more than £750,000; there is national publicity and/or widespread public concern; highly specialised knowledge is required; a significant element of the case involves inquiries in a foreign jurisdiction.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Gibraltarians are serving in the UK armed forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. [229131]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Deployment figures are currently provided at aggregate levels based on manual returns which do not record the nationality of personnel. They are not available in central individual level databases. As such this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on the provisions of the Army Terms of Service (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2008, with reference to young people serving for four years beyond their 18th birthday; and if he will make a statement. [228571]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army Terms of Service (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2008 came into effect on 6 August 2008. The regulations brought the minimum commitment period for under 18 soldiers back into line with the provisions that existed prior to 1 January 2008, i e. that they should serve for a minimum of four years from their 18th birthday.

The Department has received one enquiry from an independent researcher with an interest in armed forces recruitment questioning the rationale behind the regulations.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what direct running costs the UK has incurred to date in the use of RAF Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales in the US Missile Defence System. [228389]

Mr. Hutton: Running costs at RAF Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales associated with the US Missile Defence System are not identified separately from other functions of the station. We do not anticipate the direct running costs incurred by the UK will increase because of the participation of these stations in the US ballistic missile defence system.

China: Armed Forces

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2250-1W, on armed forces: training, when his Department's bilateral programme with the Chinese People's Liberation Army started; what the terms of the programme are; what other activities *(a)* have taken place and *(b)* are planned to take place under the programme; how much funding has been allocated for the programme in the next 12 months; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the bilateral programme agreement. [228567]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 20 October 2008]*: The MOD's limited bilateral programme with China has been developing on a gradual basis since the then Prime Minister visited China in October 1998. The terms of the programme are: to maintain consistency with HMG policy and international restrictions; to limit the scope of activity; to ensure in-country control through oversight by the UK Defence Attaché, and; to conduct regular policy review. Activities include senior leadership engagement, high-level command and staff training, junior leadership training, low-level military training, exercises (observing), disaster management training, peace support operations training, benefits to the wider military and civil communities and sport. The total amount of funding allocated in support of the programme for financial year 2008-09 is £464.5,000, of which £177,000 comes from the Conflict Prevention Pool. Our complete UK/China bi-lateral programme for FY 2008-09 is subject to continuing discussion, but is expected to comprise a series of high level visits, an annual programming meeting, short term training teams and courses (including English language training) related to Peace Support Operations, a small number of places for Chinese students in defence education establishments, and limited short term exchanges of service personnel.

I am withholding a copy of the bilateral programme agreement as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice international relations.

Cluster Munitions

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans the Government have to ratify the Convention on cluster munitions within the next 12 months. [228737]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK plans to sign the Convention when it opens for signature on 3 December 2008 in Oslo and will ratify as soon as feasible after that date.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy to his Department in 2007-08. [228143]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Expenditure in 2007-08 by the MOD, including the armed forces on the items listed was:

(a) Hospitality and entertainment—£4.2 million. We report this expenditure in our Annual Report and Accounts each year.

(b) Advertising and public relations—£46.3 million. This represents the cost of public relations services (including sales marketing and advertising), Service and civilian recruitment expenses and expenditure on schools and community relations initiatives.

(c) The level of expenditure on public relations consultancy is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. A summary of MOD's 2007-08 expenditure on external assistance (which includes public relations consultancy) has been placed in the Library of the House.

The figures quoted do not include expenditure for the MOD Trading Funds which lie outside the Department's accounting boundary.

All expenditure is subject to audit and the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Gulf of Aden: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution the UK is making to efforts to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden; and if he will make a statement. [225603]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Government's stance on piracy has recently been reviewed. This has resulted in a move to a more proactive posture whereby Royal Navy (RN) units in the region will actively seek out pirates, and we have issued them with more robust guidance to deal with any pirates encountered. The RN will contribute to counter-piracy operations through three international efforts:

The UK is already engaged in efforts to combat acts of piracy off Somalia, through the Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, which has established a Maritime Security Patrol Area (MSPA) in the Gulf of Aden. CTF 150 units in this area, including RN vessels, are actively conducting operations to counter destabilising activities primarily aimed at deterring and disrupting acts of piracy;

Standing NATO Maritime Group 2, including attached RN units, will also be deploying to the region with a mandate which allows them to conduct counter-piracy operations from mid-October. NATO is considering the ways in which this mandate can be implemented including the escorting of World Food Programme shipping into port in Mogadishu; and

We have also supported EU planning for a counter-piracy naval operation off the coast of Somalia, and on 14 October the EU Political and Security Committee decided to accept the offer made by the UK to provide the Operation Commander (Rear Admiral Phil Jones) and the Operation HQ (the Multinational Headquarters at Northwood). A formal decision from the EU member states to allow planning for the operation to proceed to the next stage is expected in the coming days. The UK offer is subject to sufficient forces being generated for an operation likely to begin in December.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to discontinue the Royal Navy role in the Combined Task Force 150 in anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden; and if he will make a statement. [226281]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are currently no plans to discontinue the Royal Navy's support to Combined Task Force (CTF) 150 countering destabilising activity including piracy in the region. Rather, the Royal Navy's response to piracy in the region is being strengthened.

The Government's stance on piracy has recently been reviewed. This has resulted in a move to a more proactive posture where Royal Navy (RN) units in the region will actively seek out pirates, and we have issued them with more robust guidance to deal with any pirates encountered. The RN will contribute to counter-piracy operations through three international efforts:

continued support to CTF 150, which has established a Maritime Security Patrol Area (MSPA) in the Gulf of Aden; standing NATOMaritime Group 2, including attached RN units, will also be deploying to the region with a mandate which allows them to conduct counter-piracy operations from mid-October. NATO is considering the ways in which this mandate can be implemented including the escorting of World Food Programme shipping into port in Mogadishu; and

we have also supported EU planning for a counter-piracy naval operation off the coast of Somalia, and on 14 October the EU Political and Security Committee decided to accept the offer made by the UK to provide the Operation Commander (Rear Admiral Phil Jones) and the Operation HQ (the Multinational Headquarters at Northwood). A formal decision from the EU member states to allow planning for the operation to proceed to the next stage is expected in the coming days. The UK offer is subject to sufficient forces being generated for an operation likely to begin in December.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government is taking to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament. [228112]

Mr. Hutton: The UK plays an active role in all international forums and treaties related to multilateral nuclear disarmament. In particular, we are working to reinforce and strengthen the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. We are pressing for the start of negotiation without pre-conditions in the Conference on Disarmament on a Fissile Material Cut-Off treaty and we continue to call all on all States that have not yet ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to do so, especially those nine for which entry into force is required.

We are also playing a leading and innovative role in several new initiatives. Along with Norway and the non-governmental organisation VERTIC, we are undertaking research into possible technologies which may be of potential use in any future multilateral disarmament treaty or regime. We have offered to host a confidence building and technical conference between the five Nuclear Weapon States to discuss the issues surrounding multilateral nuclear disarmament. We have co-sponsored a major report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies on the technical and political requirements for a world free of nuclear weapons published in August 2008.

Ottawa Convention

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what further steps the Government intends to take in order to meet the obligations of Article 5 of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. [228572]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Joint Feasibility Study that we carried out with Argentina into de-mining in the Falkland Islands, completed in October 2007, concluded that clearance is technically possible but it will present significant challenges and risks.

We therefore need to carefully consider how to proceed. The Falkland Islands Government was regularly consulted while the Feasibility Study was being carried out and any future decisions will be made in consultation with the Falkland Islands Government. In compliance with the Convention, we have therefore submitted a request for a 10 year Article 5 extension to our March 2009 clearance deadline. Our request will be considered at the ninth meeting of states parties in November 2008.

In the meantime, in compliance with Article 5 of the Convention, the mined areas are clearly marked, fenced and regularly monitored.

RAF Croughton

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role RAF Croughton plays in the US missile defence system. [228388]

Mr. Hutton: RAF Croughton plays no role in the US missile defence system.

Somalia: Pirates

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of the recent capture of a Ukrainian ship by pirates in Somali waters; what response he has made to these reports; and if he will make a statement. [225963]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are aware that the MV Faina has been hijacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia carrying a cargo of weapons. There is no direct UK interest in this ship; it is Belize flagged, Ukrainian, Latvian and Russian crewed with a Ukrainian cargo. It is being monitored by the US Navy who are keeping us informed. No Royal Navy units are involved in the monitoring of the vessel but we are engaged in counter-piracy more generally in the region.

The Government's stance on piracy has recently been reviewed. This has resulted in a move to a more proactive posture whereby Royal Navy (RN) units in the region will actively seek out pirates, and we have issued them with more robust guidance to deal with any pirates encountered. The RN will contribute to counter-piracy operations through three international efforts:

The UK is already engaged in efforts to combat acts of piracy off Somalia, through the Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, which has established a Maritime Security Patrol Area (MSPA) in the Gulf of Aden. CTF 150 units in this area, including RN vessels, are actively conducting operations to counter destabilising activities primarily aimed at deterring and disrupting acts of piracy;

Standing NATO Maritime Group 2, including attached RN units, will also be deploying to the region with a mandate which allows them to conduct counter-piracy operations from mid-October. NATO is considering the ways in which this mandate can be implemented including the escorting of World Food Programme shipping into port in Mogadishu; and

We have also supported EU planning for a counter-piracy naval operation off the coast of Somalia, and on 14 October the EU Political and Security Committee decided to accept the offer made by the UK to provide the Operation Commander (Rear Admiral Phil Jones) and the Operation HQ (the Multinational Headquarters at Northwood). A formal decision from the EU member states to allow planning for the operation to proceed to the next stage is expected in the coming days. The UK offer is subject to sufficient forces being generated for an operation likely to begin in December.

Territorial Army: Dental Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of dental treatment for members of the Territorial Army. [226122]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All members of the Territorial Army make their own personal arrangements for dental treatment when they are not mobilised. They receive dental checks from the Defence Dental Services when they are due to be mobilised for deployment and are advised of any treatment required within the next six months.

While mobilised, members of the Territorial Army receive free dental treatment from the Defence Dental Services.

Trident Missiles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on progress towards a successor to the D5 missile; and what role UK personnel have played in that work. [228900]

Mr. Hutton: Neither I nor my predecessor have held any negotiations with our US counterparts on a successor to the D5 missile. As explained in the December 2006 White Paper "The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), decisions on whether we wish to acquire a successor to the life extended D5 missile, and what form any successor might take, are unlikely to be necessary until the 2020s.

USA: Military Bases

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which bases in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Wales US visiting forces are based. [228387]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: US visiting forces occupy the following bases in England, all designated as RAF bases: Alconbury, Cambridgeshire; Barford St. John, Oxfordshire; Croughton, Northants; Fairford, Gloucestershire; Feltwell, Norfolk; Lakenheath, Suffolk; Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire; Molesworth, Cambridgeshire; Upwood, Cambridgeshire; Welford, Berkshire. In addition, there is a USVF presence at the Joint Maritime Facility at St Mawgan, Cornwall. There are no USVF bases in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many months and what percentage time each Royal Navy attack submarine in service spent *(a)* on operations and *(b)* in maintenance in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09 to date; [226980]

(2) how many months and what percentage of time each Royal Navy destroyer in service spent *(a)* on operations and *(b)* in maintenance in each year since 2006; [227039]

(3) how many months and what percentage of time each Royal Navy aircraft carrier in service spent *(a)* on operations and *(b)* in maintenance in each year since 1997. [227040]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The months and percentage time spent on operations or in maintenance for the periods requested for Royal Navy carriers, destroyers and attack submarines are as follows:

Ark Royal

	Months		*Percentage*	
	Op time	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*
1997	[1]0	0	0	0
1998	[1]0	0	0	0
1999	0	8	0	63
2000	0	12	0	100
2001	1	7	0	58
2002	4	2	31	21
2003	3	4	38	15
2004	[1]0	2	0	9
2005	[1]0	3	0	27
2006	0	9	0	66
2007	3	1	25	8
2008	4	0	33	0

[1] HMS Ark Royal at low readiness.

Illustrious

	Months		*Percentage*	
	Op time	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*
1997	7	3	62	11
1998	3	7	26	49
1999	4	4	19	23
2000	3	5	40	20
2001	6	4	48	4
2002	3	4	23	27
2003	0	12	0	100
2004	[1]0	9	0	85
2005	4	2	19	15
2006	5	5	37	15
2007	5	3	42	25
2008	5	1	42	8

[1] HMS Illustrious conducting post refit trials.

Invincible

	Months		*Percentage*	
	Op time	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*
1997	5	4	42	33
1998	5	3	42	25
1999	5	6	42	50
2000	6	4	50	33
2001	1	10	8	83
2002	0	12	0	100
2003	4	1	33	8
2004	6	5	50	42
2005	3	4	25	33
2006	[1]0	0	0	0
2007	[1]0	0	0	0
2008	[1]0	0	0	0

[1] HMS Invincible at low readiness in Portsmouth.

Destroyers

	2007				*2008*			
	Months		*Percentage*		*Months*		*Percentage*	
Vessel	*Op time*	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*
Edinburgh	6	3	50	25	5	2	42	17
Gloucester	1	9	8	75	3	3	25	25
Manchester	7	4	58	33	6	3	58	25
York	4	2	33	17	0	9	0	83
Exeter	4	1	33	8	5	0	42	0
Liverpool	1	7	8	58	8	1	75	8
Nottingham	5	4	42	33	4	0	33	0
Southampton	7	2	58	17	2	5	17	42

Attack submarines

	2007				*2008*			
	Months		*Percentage*		*Months*		*Percentage*	
Vessel	*Op time*	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*
Superb	1	8	10	64	2	4	17	46
Sceptre	7	2	55	13	1	6	12	61
Trafalgar	0	10	0	81	4	2	41	19
Turbulent	2	7	20	57	0	9	0	100
Tireless	5	4	41	29	3	5	28	54
Torbay	0	11	0	92	2	4	17	39

Attack submarines

Vessel	*2007*				*2008*			
	Months		*Percentage*		*Months*		*Percentage*	
	Op time	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*	*Op time*	*Main time*
Trenchant	5	3	39	26	4	2	39	23
Talent	5	3	39	22	5	2	53	18
Triumph	0	12	0	100	0	9	0	100

The figures given for 2008 in all tables are for 1 January to 30 September 2008.

Time not accounted for under operations and maintenance in the tables includes periods of basic sea safety training, post refit trials, periods of extended leave and other duties (such as conducting synthetic training, ammunitioning, storing) undertaken while in port.

As I stated in my letter to the hon. Member on 5 November 2007, the figures provided are necessarily approximate because records held centrally do not always distinguish precisely between routine maintenance and other time spent alongside, since the two activities are often intermixed.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many days each Type 42 destroyer in service spent at sea in each year since 2003; [227933]

(2) how many days each attack submarine in service has spent at sea in each year since 2003; [227934]

(3) how many days each Type *(a)* 22 and *(b)* 23 frigate in service spent at sea in each year since 2003. [227935]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of days at sea for Royal Navy Destroyers, Frigates and Attack Submarines since 2003 are as follows:

Attack Submarines

Vessel	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Sovereign	108	27	52	141	01	0
Spartan	103	98	181	01	0	0
Splendid	164	01	0	0	0	0
Superb	02	0	0	261	75	71
Sceptre	176	123	149	110	217	44
Trafalgar	0	95	148	128	51	156
Turbulent	143	157	135	141	96	0
Tireless	142	152	0	122	159	95
Torbay	212	23	117	209	0	115
Trenchant	104	115	146	0	185	119
Talent	02	0	0	56	189	140
Triumph	221	6	02	0	0	0

Notes:

1. HMS Sovereign, HMS Spartan And HMS Splendid were decommissioned submarines that were running over the period
2. The figures for HMS Superb, HMS Talent and HMS Triumph reflect their major refit periods.

Destroyers

Vessel	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Edinburgh	157	149	67	111	121	134
Gloucester	129	131	111	141	37	75
Manchester	143	118	128	47	153	132
York	172	54	177	118	97	0
Exeter	61	163	0	96	71	19
Liverpool	188	110	154	126	63	131
Nottingham	0	85	138	126	109	60
Southampton	35	158	109	142	167	44

Type 22 and 23 Frigates

Vessel	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Argyll	91	138	157	135	143	114
Lancaster	150	42	135	146	142	95
Iron Duke	176	140	97	163	22	139
Monmouth	117	162	114	101	170	44
Montrose	24	122	165	139	152	173
Westminster	70	40	135	148	92	150
St Albans	121	148	98	159	41	35
Northumberland	164	14	66	152	137	90
Richmond	167	157	11	46	206	103
Somerset	103	184	83	23	79	127
Sutherland	164	120	97	141	153	0

Type 22 and 23 Frigates

Vessel	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Kent	183	104	72	169	98	113
Portland	160	99	125	44	184	57
Cornwall	148	105	34	113	159	100
Cumberland	114	178	143	66	23	78
Campbeltown	128	168	137	63	159	114
Chatham	180	110	128	129	94	163

The figures given for 2008 in all tables are for 1 January to 30 September 2008.

These figures do not include time spent in harbour, alongside training, self maintenance and periods of leave.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Network

6. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the network change programme for the post office network in Greater Manchester and High Peak. [229221]

Mr. McFadden: Following local consultations, Post Office Ltd announced its decisions on the Greater Manchester and High Peak area plan on 12 August. These confirmed that 316 branches would be retained in the area, and that four closure proposals, including Spotland Road in Rochdale, had been withdrawn. To date, 63 post office closures have been confirmed for Greater Manchester and High Peak with decisions on two other closure proposals still awaited.

7. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the post office network change programme. [229222]

Mr. McFadden): Local consultations on all 42 of Post Office Ltd's area plans have closed and decisions have been announced on 41 area plans. To date, 87 closure proposals and five outreach proposals had been withdrawn in the light of responses to local consultations. Following the network change programme, on average, over 90 per cent. of customers nationally will see no change to their local post office.

8. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department gave to community groups on participating in the Post Office consultation on network change; and if he will make a statement. [229223]

Mr. McFadden: The arrangements for local consultation on Post Office Ltd's Network Change Programme area plans were the responsibility of the company, operating within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding agreed with Postwatch, and monitored closely by the consumer body. I understand that there was extensive participation and levels of response to the network change proposals put forward to local consultation from local authorities and other community and representative groups.

Construction Industry

9. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the level of activity in the construction industry. [229226]

Ian Pearson: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Scarborough and Whitby some moments ago.

Glass Industry

10. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the competitiveness of the British glass industry; and if he will make a statement. [229228]

Ian Pearson: No such assessment has been made recently, however the most recent figures show that the glass industry contributes £1.2 billion to the UK economy, and employs around 28,000 people directly.

Business Environment: Essex

11. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings Ministers in his Department have had with the Minister for the East of England to discuss the business environment in Essex since 1 July 2007. [229229]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers from the Department regularly meet with my hon. Friend the Minister for the East of England to discuss a range of issues.

Small Businesses

12. **John Robertson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to promote and protect growth in small businesses. [229230]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to promoting enterprise. Our policies have ensured that internationally the UK is now recognised as among the best in the world to start and grow a business. The Government are determined to build on that success. That is why we published a renewed Enterprise Strategy in March that sets out a framework of five drivers to inform and structure the Government's enterprise policy: Culture, Knowledge and Skills, Finance, Innovation and Regulation. My hon. Friend will also be aware of the package of measures to support small businesses that were announced this week.

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Internet Governance Forum

13. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to support the work of the Internet Governance Forum. [229231]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to ensuring the success of the multi-stakeholder Internet Governance Forum (IGF) process. We are a leading donor, with £50,000 committed to supporting the IGF Secretariat this year. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) works in partnership with Nominet in the UK IGF, which is identifying key messages for the third IGF in Hyderabad in December. In addition to promoting the contributions of UK parliamentarians, Nominet and other UK stakeholders in Hyderabad, BERR will hold a workshop on virtual worlds for delivering public service and innovation.

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the relationship between the price of alcohol and drinking behaviour; and if he will make a statement; [227293]

(2) what plans he has to regulate the sale of low-cost alcohol as a loss leader in supermarkets; and if he will make a statement. [227294]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Department commissioned the School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR), at the university of Sheffield to produce an independent review on the effects of alcohol price, promotion, consumption and harm. The review has two phases:

Phase 1 systematically identified, appraised and synthesised international evidence on the relationship between alcohol price, promotion, consumption and harm. Summary of the first phase, published on 22 July, found significant links between price and youth and heavy drinkers but it has less of an impact on moderate and occasional drinkers; and

Phase 2 explored the potential impact of potential policy changes in this area, especially the population-based impact on health, crime, and wider economy for the population as a whole and also with a focus on: young people under 18 who drink alcohol; 18 to 24-year-old hazardous drinkers; and, harmful drinkers whose patterns of drinking damage their physical/mental health or causes substantial harm to others.

Findings from the review are expected to be published this year and are intended to inform understanding of retail practices, whether they are linked to excessive drinking, and whether Government intervention is likely to be proportionate and have a significant beneficial impact.

Energy: Business

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department makes available to help rural businesses meet energy bills. [227739]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

We have a range of support to assist rural SMEs as part of the Government's support to the SME sector as a whole. We have developed information for our Businesslink.gov portal to consolidate and provide one-stop shop advice to SMEs on energy efficiency. We intend to have measures in place by the end of this year to enable SMEs to access energy efficiency advice and support though information and services provided by all energy suppliers. The Carbon Trust offers a range of interest-free energy efficiency loans and advice.

Retail Trade

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the future competitiveness of the retail sector. [229224]

Mr. Thomas: Assessments of the competitiveness of different parts of the retail sector are undertaken from time to time including in the recent Competition Commission investigation into the grocery sector.

It is clear that the grocery sector is still a strong, competitive market. Other parts of the retail sector are facing tougher times.

We are continuing to work through what farther action, Government can take to help all businesses through the current economic downturn.

Small Businesses: Economic Situation

Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to protect small businesses in the current economic climate; and if he will make a statement. [229214]

Ian Pearson: Small businesses are central to the UK economy and the Government are fully committed to supporting business at this critical time.

We have committed to pay firms within 10 days, and to ensure banks make funds available to small businesses.

We also announced this week:

An enhanced training offer through Train to Gain;

Free "Health Checks" through Business Link; and

New finance guides with the Institute of Credit Management.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 989W, on terrorism, what progress has been made on point 11 of the 12-point plan of 5 August 2005 in respect of consulting Muslim leaders with regard to those clerics who are not British citizens to draw up a list of those not suitable to preach who will be excluded from the UK. [227938]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* On progress against the 12-point plan, I refer the hon. Member again to the update provided by my right hon.

Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1594W. This sets out that all counter-terrorism work has now been subsumed into the United Kingdom's long-term strategy for countering terrorism (the CONTEST strategy).

On point 11 in the 12-point plan, I refer the hon. Member again to the statement made by the then Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke) on 15 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 167-71WS. No further action was taken in respect of drawing up a list of 'clerics' to be excluded from the UK.

Since August 2005, 79 individuals have been excluded from the UK on the basis that they have engaged in unacceptable behaviours. The statistics are not broken down according to the professional background of the individuals concerned. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 14W.

Council Housing: South West

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority-owned, non-decent dwellings there were in *(a)* the South West and *(b)* Stroud district in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [229735]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department collects figures on local authority non-decent homes through the published annual Business Plan Statistical Appendix. According to the latest returns available, the number of non-decent local authority homes as at 1 April 2007 in South West England as a whole was 27,128 (22 per cent. of stock). The figure for Stroud was 510 (10 per cent. of stock). The regional figure includes non-decent homes in local authorities which had established an arm's length management organisation to manage their homes.

Council Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much council tax liability was written off by local authorities in each year since 1985; and what proportion of council tax liability this represented in each such year. [229416]

John Healey: Details of the amount of council tax expected to be collected within the year by local authorities in England since 2002-03 (in £ millions), the amount of council tax written off each year, and the proportion of the amount to be collected this represents are shown in the following table. The data are reported annually by all billing authorities and were first collected in 2002-03.

	Amount of council tax to be collected (£ million)	*Amount written off (£ million)*	*Proportion of council tax to be collected written off (percentage)*
2002-03	14,624	109	0.75
2003-04	16,574	133	0.80
2004-05	17,730	137	0.77
2005-06	18,576	130	0.70
2006-07	19,554	134	0.69
2007-08	20,609	15[illegible]	0.73

The amounts written off relate to council tax payable for both the current year and for previous years.

Some authorities net off against write-offs moneys collected that had previously been written off. This can result in a negative total figure for amounts written off in a particular year.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of council tax liability was not collected by local authorities in England in each year since 1985. [229417]

John Healey: Details of the percentage of council tax liability collected in year by local authorities in England, since the introduction of council tax in 1993-94 and 2006-07, are available in table 2.2m of "Local Government Financial Statistics No 18 2008" which is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfs/2008/lgfs18/

Data for 2007-08 were published in a Statistical Release on 18 June 2008 and are available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/cp078.htm.

Collection of council taxes continues once the financial year to which they relate has ended. This means that the percentage collected will eventually be higher than the figure shown.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average Band D council tax increase was in England in each year since 1985. [229418]

John Healey: Details of the average Band D council tax increase in England since the introduction of council tax in 1993-94, are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on overnight accommodation by her Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228765]

Mr. Khan: For the 12-month period from October 2007 to September 2008 the amount spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants in the Department for Communities and Local Government, excluding Government offices, departmental agencies and NDPBs, was £482,887.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants working in her Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229557]

Mr. Khan: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members whose details are shown in the remuneration report in annual resource accounts. A copy of Communities and

Local Government's resource accounts for financial year 2007-8 can be found in the Library or accessed electronically using the following link

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0708/hc07/0791/0791.pdf

Deprivation Indicators

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 313W, on the index of deprivation, whether distance calculations were *(a)* made by the Oxford University researchers producing the report and *(b)* contained within the primary source data. [229651]

John Healey: The distance calculations were made by the University of Oxford using point data from the primary data source and population weighted centroid data from the Office for National Statistics.

Government Offices for the Regions

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse of the Government Offices for the Regions was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [228623]

Mr. Khan: The administrative cost to the public purse of the Government offices for the regions was £137,803,159 in 2006-07 and £122,293,471 in 2007-08.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total programme budget managed or influenced by Government Offices for the Regions *(a)* was in 2007-08 and *(b)* is in 2008-09 according to the Network Corporate Plan. [229680]

Mr. Khan: Programme expenditure is the responsibility of each of the sponsor Departments and the GO Network no longer retains annual records of this. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2782W, which provided the programme spend breakdown for 2006-07.

Green belt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on the green belt, what her reasons were for approving the Regional Spatial Strategy's proposals to review and develop on the green belt. [229624]

Mr. Iain Wright: Once the general extent of a green belt has been approved, it should be altered only in exceptional circumstances. However, it is good practice to check, from time to time, that the extent of a particular green belt is still appropriate and justified. The Regional Spatial Strategy is the appropriate vehicle for this.

In general terms, if any alteration is proposed, the Secretary of State will wish to be satisfied that the relevant local planning authority has considered opportunities for development in the urban areas contained by, and beyond, the green belt. National planning policy is a consideration throughout the process, including, especially, Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: "Green Belts".

Detailed changes to a green belt boundary would be a matter for the local planning authority through the development plan process. The guidance states that boundaries should not be changed unless alterations to the Regional Spatial Strategy have been approved, or other exceptional circumstances make revision necessary.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 37-39WS, on home information packs, in what ways her Department will seek to enhance the current product and quality of the pack. [229650]

Mr. Iain Wright: The consultation published on 22 July set out our proposals to improve the information provided to consumers as part of the home information pack. A copy of the consultation was placed in the Library of the House.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 322W, on home information packs, how many penalty charge notices have been issued to the responsible person for breaches of home information pack duties to date. [230077]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 229W.

Homelessness

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many householders have presented themselves to a local authority as homeless in England in each year since 1985; and how many of those presented following *(a)* mortgage repayment difficulties and *(b)* rental arrears in each such year. [229415]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected includes all decisions made on applications by eligible applicants, and the number of applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). These households are known as 'accepted' households.

The following table shows the total number of decisions from 1991 to 2007, on applications from households eligible for assistance under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts.

Total number of decisions made by English local housing authorities under the 1985 and 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households[1], 1991 to 2007

	Total decisions
1991	301,620
1992	305,640
1993	288,250
1994	269,630
1995	271,500
1996	263,900
1997	242,340
1998	245,350
1999	243,290
2000	247,190
2001	255,080
2002	269,330
2003	296,970
2004	281,460
2005	227,260
2006	168,530
2007	137,690

[1] Decisions on applications from households eligible for assistance under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Act.

Information on decisions by reason for loss of last settled home (which includes mortgage arrears and rent arrears) is not held centrally. However this information is held for accepted households and this is provided back to 1997 in our quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness (table 5), which is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/xls/963636.xls

Housing Companies: Reorganisation

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether directors of the Homes and Communities Agency who are also employed by *(a)* the Housing Corporation and *(b)* English Partnership will receive remuneration for both roles until the formal amalgamation of the organisations has been completed. [228507]

Mr. Iain Wright: Directors of the Homes and Communities Agency who are currently employed by either the Housing Corporation or English Partnership will only receive remuneration for their substantive position. When they take up their posting in the HCA, once vesting has occurred, they will be remunerated by that organisation.

Mr. Co[illegible] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff are employed by *(a)* the Housing Corporation and *(b)* English Partnerships; and how many of these staff she expects to be retained by the Homes and Communities Agency. [228517]

Mr. Iain Wright: At 1 October, English Partnerships had an establishment of 610 full-time equivalents (FTEs), with 501 staff in post (FTEs). At 1 October, Housing Corporation had an establishment of 556.6 FTEs, with 497 staff in post (FTEs). At Vesting day, the Homes and Communities Agency will inherit 276 staff from the Housing Corporation and the Tenant Services Authority will inherit 250 staff.

In addition to the aforementioned numbers, the Homes and Communities Agency will have 58 posts from CLG and 30 posts from the Academy of Sustainable Communities.

A very small number of staff have decided not to transfer to either the HCA or TSA, and will therefore leave either English Partnerships or the Housing Corporation before the new agencies are created.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the public funding available for the provision of affordable housing in the next three years is ring-fenced for such provision in rural areas in *(a)* Stafford constituency, *(b)* the West Midlands region and *(c)* England. [225308]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation has been set a national target to provide 10,300 affordable homes in smaller rural communities. The Housing Corporation's investment partners can bid for grant funding from the National Affordable Housing Programme. Grant will be allocated to those schemes which meet the needs of local people, the regional strategy and demonstrate strong value for money.

The allocations made to date for units to be completed during 2008-11 for settlements below 3,000 is in *(a)* Staffordshire (Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire and Stafford local authorities): £1.6 million for 27 social rent units and 26 LCHO units, *(b)* the West Midlands region is £10 million for 208 social rent units and 137 LCHO units and *(c)* England is £153 million for 3,520 social rent units and 1,572 LCHO units.

Housing: Overcrowding

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1098-1100W, on housing: overcrowding, what estimate she has made of the number of households living in overcrowded conditions in each local authority area. [228355]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of overcrowding for individual local authorities are not routinely available because sample sizes at local authority level are too small. However, the results of a one-off model are available based on a combination of three years' data from both the Survey of English Housing and DWP's Family Resources Survey for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03. Based on this model, estimates of the percentages of households in various local authorities that were overcrowded during the three-year period 2000-01 to 2002-03 are set out in table 1 of the publication at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/overcrowding

Housing: Private Finance Initiative

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effect of current economic conditions on the financial position of private finance initiative housing schemes. [227889]

Mr. Iain Wright: My Department is monitoring the situation and working closely with all PFI schemes to help support them in finding solutions where difficulties arise. If a local authority were to approach this Department with concerns about a scheme, we would provide advice and support as appropriate.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the capital value of *(a)* housing association and *(b)* council housing stock in each year since 1997. [229406]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 229W.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public funding was provided to *(a)* Stroud District Council and *(b)* Gloucestershire County Council in (i) non-formula funding and (ii) formula grant in each of the last four financial years. [228870]

John Healey: The amount of non-formula funding and formula grant provided to Stroud district council and Gloucestershire county council in each of the last four financial years is shown in the following table.

£000

	(a) Stroud district council		*(b) Gloucestershire county council*	
	(i) Non-formula funding	*(ii) Formula grant*	*(i) Non-formula funding*	*(ii) Formula grant*
2004-05	875	5,420	115,483	329,643
2005-06	1,415	5,600	112,194	352,373
2006-07	2,130	6,459	377,490	92,747
2007-08[1]	1,885	6,792	430,799	95,155

[1] Provisional

Source:

Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

Figures are as supplied by the local authority to Communities and Local Government.

The estimates for 2007-08 are based on provisional revenue outturn data. The final 2007-08 outturn figures will be available later this year.

Non-formula funding is defined here as specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for a council's core services (e.g. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)).

Formula grant is defined here as the sum of revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is for an authority's core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authority's housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where an authority is simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

The large change in non-formula funding and formula grant from 2005-06 to 2006-07 is because local authorities now receive funding for schools through DSG rather than as part of formula grant.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities and other public institutions for which she has responsibility hold accounts in Icelandic banks; and how much is held by each institution in such banks. [227303]

John Healey: In relation to local authorities, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1577W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles)

The Audit Commission issued a statement on 16 October on its deposits in Icelandic banks, which is on its website at:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Officials have contacted agencies, public corporations and non-departmental public bodies for which Communities and Local Government has responsibility and, excepting the Audit Commission, we are not aware of any that have investments in Icelandic banks.

Local Government: By-elections

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to make an order moving the date of the local elections in 2009; and if she will make a statement. [229311]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made to the House on 7 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 8WS.

Local Government: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there are restrictions on local authorities using their powers as laid under Part 2 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to change the timing of their elections, other than the provisions laid out in the primary legislation. [229674]

John Healey: There are no restrictions on local authorities using their powers under part 2 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to change their scheme of elections, other than those laid out in primary legislation by Parliament.

New Milton Sand and Ballast

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will extend the deadline for responses to her Department in respect of the appeal by New Milton Sand and Ballast to the High Court under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (reference: 82483). [229474]

Mr. Khan: The deadline has been extended to 7 November, in response to a request from local campaign groups who sought more time to formulate their response.

Ordnance Survey: Manpower

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff were employed by Ordnance Survey in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [228402]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of permanent staff employed at Ordnance Survey in either a full or part-time capacity on 31 March in each of the 10 years to 2008 was as follows:

	Staff
1999	1,864
2000	1,852
2001	1,848
2002	1,790
2003	1,467
2004	1,485
2005	1,433
2006	1,397
2007	1,362
2008	1,357

Planning Permission

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has provided to local authorities on the time it should take to *(a)* investigate planning transgressions and *(b)* implement planning enforcement where necessary. [227932]

Mr. Iain Wright: Guidance on the timing of investigations into allegations of unauthorised development and on the timing of enforcement procedures is given in the Department's publication "Enforcing Planning Control: Good Practice for Local Planning Authorities".

Paragraph 2.3 of this document recommends that in investigating complaints concerning unauthorised development, a local planning authority should respond to a complaint within 15 working days, explaining what action the authority proposes to take and tell the complainant about the local planning authority's decision to make formal enforcement action within 10 working days of the authority's making that decision.

Paragraphs 5.19-5.25 deal with sections 173-174 of the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990 concerning the date on which a planning enforcement notice takes effect and the compliance period for the taking of any remedial action required by the enforcement notice. The provisions of the TCPA 1990 require that the service of an enforcement notice shall not take place less than 28 days before the date on which it is to take effect. But the guidance indicates that it may be prudent to allow a margin of several days above this minimum period so as to ensure that all interested parties receive the notice not less than 28 days before the effective date. The compliance period should be as short as can reasonably be allowed and it should not normally exceed one year. But it will be for the LPA to decide on how long it should be depending on the complexity of the case.

Planning Permission: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the number of planning enforcement files open and awaiting action by Castle Point borough council; and if she will make a statement. [229315]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State has received no representations concerning planning enforcement cases being dealt with by Castle Point borough council. It is for the local planning authority to decide in each case which is the most appropriate course of action, taking account of local circumstances. PPG 18, Enforcing Planning Control offers guidance to local planning authorities on enforcement issues and gives them a wide range of discretion. Paragraph 5(1) states

> "Parliament has given local planning authorities the primary responsibility for taking whatever enforcement action may be necessary, in the public interest, in their administrative area".

The 2006 planning enforcement review confirmed that local planning authorities had sufficient enforcement powers to deal with breaches of planning control.

Planning: Enforcement

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from local authorities on the likely effect of the provisions of Clause 151 of the Planning Bill, if enacted, on their ability to take enforcement action following complaints regarding alleged statutory nuisance by major infrastructure project developers. [229473]

John Healey: We have received representations from LACORS (local authority co-ordinators of regulatory services), among other stakeholders, on the likely effect of the provisions of what was Clause 151 of the Planning Bill.

The Government tabled amendments to remove Clause 151 from the Planning Bill, and insert provisions in its place that maintain the current balanced settlement. They allow development of nationally significant infrastructure to go forward while nevertheless ensuring that individuals are able to receive compensation for the effect on their land. These amendments were accepted during House of Lords Committee stage.

Regional Ministers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost to the public purse is of the work of regional ministers annually; and if she will make a statement. [229053]

Mr. Khan: The estimated cost of the work of the regional Ministers over the last year is £1.173 million. This figure includes Government office and departmental staff supporting these Ministers in their regional role. It does not cover any further costs incurred by the Ministers' home Departments as the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Rented Housing: Carbon Monoxide

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* privately rented student accommodation or houses, *(b)* student halls of residence and *(c)* residential care homes which are not fitted with carbon monoxide alarms; [229324]

(2) what representations her Department has received on introducing a mandatory requirement for carbon monoxide alarms to be fitted in all forms of rented accommodation. [229325]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold information in relation to the number of homes that are not fitted with carbon monoxide alarms.

The Department receives a large number of representations in relation to housing and health some of which relate to carbon monoxide alarms.

There are no current requirements to install carbon monoxide monitors in privately rented properties. However, we are keen to promote good practice and landlords' organisations are already engaged on safety issues and are involved in the promotion of good practice to their members.

Landlords are responsible for maintaining their properties, including the safety of gas and electrical appliances and the fire safety of furniture and furnishings provided under the tenancy. All private landlords are required by the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to ensure that all gas appliances are maintained in good order and that an annual gas safety check is carried out by a CORGI-registered tradesman.

Taxis: Licensing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* time period and *(b)* jurisdictions are covered by Criminal Records Bureau checks on (i) British and (ii) foreign national applicants for taxi licences. [229312]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has no responsibility for these matters. The licensing of taxis is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport. The Criminal Records Bureau is an Executive agency of the Home Office.

Travelling People: Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the regional development agencies will have in respect of regional planning for Traveller camps from 2010. [229621]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have yet to issue our response to the consultation on the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration which included proposals to streamline arrangements at regional level. We do not intend to pre-empt our response by making statements about specific aspects of regional strategy or governance arrangements.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Emissions: Allotments

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the relationship between the use of allotments and reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. [224944]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

No assessment has been made of the relationship between carbon dioxide emissions and allotments.

Carbon Emissions: Public Bodies

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of annual carbon dioxide emissions arising from bodies recognised as public corporations by the Office for National Statistics; and if he will make a statement. [225005]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

DECC does not hold disaggregated data on CO_2 emissions from public corporations.

Greenhouse gas emissions for all sectors of the economy can be found in the Environmental Accounts section of the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=5695&More=Y

Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2715W, on the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture (CEFAS): finance, how much he intends to allocate to CEFAS in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [228070]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There have been no formal changes to the response provided on 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2715W.

Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has re-assessed any of its UK flood mapping timelines in view of the accelerated rate of Arctic summer ice melt of 2007-08 and its significance for the melting of the Greenland ice cap. [225101]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Recent research findings from the Met Office and the Environment Agency for the Thames Estuary 2100 project indicate that higher ranges for sea level rise are broadly in line with DEFRA's October 2006 published guidance to operating authorities.

DECC is expecting a new set of climate change scenarios from the UK Climate Impacts Partnership (UKCIP) in spring 2009, which will give a better understanding of the uncertainties associated with future sea level rise. DECC will be working closely with UKCIP and other delivery bodies to understand the risks and review policy guidance.

UK research is aimed at improving the representations of ice sheets in climate models and understanding future changes in ice sheet volume and sea level. Early indications suggest that changes in ice sheet volumes could bring a significant contribution to sea level rise. However, further research is needed to shed more light on the risks. DEFRA and DECC will continue to work closely with our science networks to better understand these risks.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221350]

Hilary Benn: DEFRA has held one major listening exercise in the last two years. The Citizen's Summit on Climate Change in May 2007 was managed entirely through the Central Office of Information at a total cost of £440,791. These costs were in line with exercises of a similar scale and scope.

The principal objectives and benefits included:

Informing public consultation for the Climate Change Bill;

Talking about the early stages of the Act on CO_2 campaign to raise public awareness and help citizens to engage with climate change;

Allowing Government, industry and the public to engage in informed dialogue on climate change;

Informing the development of a broader, longer term marketing campaign.

The summit itself was the culmination of a longer term deliberative research process with a representative sample of the population. Members of the public were recruited from across the country, exposed to all sides of the debate and asked about their attitudes and behaviour on climate change.

The final event was a major participative exercise involving the then Secretary of State, the heads of the CBI, TUC and the NCC, policy officials and around 160 members of the public. The event was covered by the media and broadcast over the internet. A full research report was produced and published to capture the key learning from the exercise. This was fed into the formal consultation process of the Climate Change Bill.

The survey of those who participated indicated:

Very high satisfaction with the process;

89 per cent. said that the process had been "very important";

Levels of feeling better informed about climate change doubled during the process, as did levels of personal engagement with the issue ("I am personally making a lot of effort" from 31 per cent. to 62 per cent.);

The process informed the development of the 'Footprint' creative device for the Act on CO_2 advertising campaign. More than 50 per cent. of those who saw the first phase of this activity said that they had or planned to take action as a result of the campaign.

Insulation: Housing

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library the details of the assumptions behind his policy on encouraging savings in household bills from home insulation. [224512]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The assumptions behind Government policy are based on the findings of the two following reports, both of which are available on the website of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

"Measurement of energy savings and comfort levels in houses receiving insulation upgrades", Martin and Watson, Energy Monitoring Company, June 2006.

"Review of Differences between Measured and Theoretical Energy Savings for Insulation Measures", Sanders and Phillipson, Centre for Research on Indoor Climate and Health, December 2006.

Assumptions from these reports have been used to update the Building Research Establishment's BREDEM model for domestic energy usage and to calculate energy savings for the following measures.

The energy savings were converted into cost savings for a standard three-bedroom semi-detached house with gas-dominated heating on a standard heating pattern and energy pricing assumed a price of 3.8p per kWh of energy saved for gas and 13p per kWh for electricity, based on consumer tariffs available in September 2008.

Illustrative value of core measures and annual energy bill savings

£

	Cavity wall insulation	*Loft insulation (from empty)*	*Loft insulation (top-up)*
Estimated installation costs[1]	500	500	500
Annual fuel bill savings per household	150	100	30

[1] Estimated average overall installation costs to consumer and energy supplier under Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme, as published by the Energy Saving Trust.

Ivory

Mr. Laurenc[illegible]ertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Enviro[illegible]ent, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of China on that country's involvement in the ivory trade; and if he will make a statement. [225984]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A number of discussions took place between officials about China's involvement in the ivory trade in the lead up to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Standing Committee meeting, held during July 2008 in Geneva.

Seas and Oceans: Nature Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the EU Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on whether the UK is empowered to curtail fishing effort in marine conservation zones in UK waters. [221638]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A range of formal and informal discussions take place with the Commissioner on a regular basis covering a wide range of issues. Through these means the Commissioner is kept abreast of developments taking place in the United Kingdom.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227055]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally by the core-Department's financial system the VAT inclusive expenditure on taxis for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 is as follows:

	£
2006-07	268,103.95
2007-08	346,457.63

DEFRA's total departmental spending in 2007-08 was some £3.7 billion. Information for financial years prior to 2006-07 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department requires any use of taxis to be appropriate to business needs, represent value for money and follow civil service rules for the use of money.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current Session of Parliament to date. [226898]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As at 9 October 2008, we had received a total of 841 named day questions, and we answered 333 on the due date. This equates to approximately 40 per cent.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps will need to be taken for the EU to achieve a 30 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020 from a 1990 baseline. [227838]

Joan Ruddock: It will be for EU member states to decide how they best meet their EU commitments in the event of a 30 per cent. greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target. However, this will require a reduction in the EU-wide cap in the EU Emissions Trading System. In addition, the Government already have a wide range of policies in place, including those in the 2006 Climate Change Programme and 2007 Energy White Paper. The framework of binding carbon budgets that the Climate Change Bill establishes will ensure we continue to keep under review the policies and measures needed to meet both our domestic obligations under the Bill and our share of a 30 per cent. European target.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the percentage of greenhouse gas emissions reductions which should be delivered through the Clean Development Mechanism or Joint Implementation under EU climate change measures. [227863]

Joan Ruddock: The UK Government would like to see project credit access in both the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and greenhouse gas (GHG) effort-share limited to 50 per cent. of absolute effort (in the context of the overarching principle that 50 per cent. of absolute emissions reductions from 2005 must take place within the EU). This, we consider, maintains the correct balance between domestic (EU) abatement, EU leadership on climate change and the cost-effectiveness of the EU's climate change package.

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to publish a revised impact assessment relating to the Climate Change Bill to take account of the amended target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 80 per cent. [229323]

Joan Ruddock: An updated Impact Assessment for the Climate Change Bill will be published following Royal Assent, and will reflect the final content of the Bill.

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether emissions from *(a)* aircraft, *(b)* shipping and *(c)* cement manufacture are included in (a) the targets to be set in the Climate Change Bill for reductions by (i) 2020 and (ii) 2050 and (b) in the target to reduce emissions by 20 per cent. below the 1990 level by 2010. [229698]

Joan Ruddock: Emissions from domestic aviation and shipping, and from cement manufacture in the UK, will be included in the Climate Change Bill's 2050 and 2020 targets. They are also included for the purposes of assessing progress towards the Government's goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent. against a 1990 baseline by 2010. Emissions from international aviation and shipping are not included in either the Bill's targets, or the 2010 goal.

Climate Change: Research

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how much the Government have spent on research into climate change since 1997; [227851]

(2) how much the Government have provided by way of grants or subsidies to organisations, companies and people involved in climate change research in each financial year since 1998. [227853]

Joan Ruddock: The UK's leading role in delivering climate change policy has been built on its world-leading research and the Government are committed to continuing support in this area. The Government support research into a wide range of climate change issues, including climate change science and innovations for mitigation and adaptation, but no centrally-collated figures are available for total expenditure.

The majority of Government expenditure in climate change research is provided through the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). NERC receives funding from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). NERC's funding of climate change research in 2007-08 was about 28 per cent. of its net spend of £389 million, approximately £109 million. In addition, universities also invest funding received from the Higher Education Funding Councils, some of which is invested in this area.

DEFRA's total expenditure on climate change research (including projects of a cross-cutting nature which are of relevance to climate change) over the last six years was £132.8 million (£13.7 million in 2002-03, £17.7 million in 2003-04, £22.0 million in 2004-05, £23.7 million in 2005-06, £24.7 million in 2006-07, and £31.0 million in 2007-08). Figures for earlier years are not readily available.

Energy Savings Trust

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of the directors of the Energy Savings Trust are from energy producing organisations. [225995]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The Energy Saving Trust currently has four non-executive directors who are from energy producing organisations.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what system is in place for ensuring that the Code for Sustainable Homes and the Code of Practice operated by the Energy Savings Trust give appropriate weight to innovative gas saving products. [225998]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The Energy Saving Trust does not operate the Code for Sustainable Homes, it is the responsibility of Communities and Local Government.

The Energy Saving Trust operates the "Domestic Energy Efficiency Advice Code of Practice". This does not specify the absolute weight to be given to advice on any particular class of product or service; rather it emphasises that advice must be based upon, and relevant to, the requirements and circumstances of the recipient.

Fuels: Trade Competitiveness

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure a competitive market for petrol and diesel. [229213]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are committed to the operation of competitive markets, as the most efficient way of ensuring supply. The supply of transport fuels is a commercial matter, which is subject to UK competition law under the Competition Act 1998. The regulation of supply of transport fuels to consumers is therefore the responsibility of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), who continue to monitor the UK petrol market to ensure that these markets remain competitive.

Industrial Diseases

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the reliability of the medical assessment procedure in assessing claims under the coal miners' compensation scheme. [229218]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Respiratory specialists and experienced medical practitioners undertake medical assessments in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger respectively. It is important to take steps to ensure consistency of diagnosis and this is done by providing training specific to each condition and also by auditing the Medical Assessment Process assessments. Specialists are trained to understand each assessment form and its objectives to establish the level of disability caused by chronic pulmonary disease or vibration white finger, assess the impact of any other condition and calculate how much of the disability is due to working in coal mines. Required qualifications for the specialist are set out in each claims handling agreement.

Processes are in place, agreed between both the claimants' solicitors and the Department, to facilitate the independent auditing of the medical assessment process. The audits are carried out firstly by the lead doctor (who delivers the training) and then by the Medical Reference Panel. The audits are done on a monthly basis and look at a sample of six reports from each respiratory specialist or experienced medical practitioner.

A quality review is undertaken by an independent organisation for medical assessments conducted under the Coal Health Compensation schemes. The Medical Review Panel is also available if any solicitor wish to dispute the medical findings in particular claims.

University of East Anglia Climatic Research Unit

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Government have provided by way of grants or subsidies to the University of East Anglia Climatic Research Unit in each financial year since 1998. [227854]

Joan Ruddock: The Natural Environment Research Council, which receives funding from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), has made grants and awards to the University of East Anglia, but figures specifically for the Climatic Research Unit are not available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airports: Biometrics

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the compulsory *(a)* fingerprinting, *(b)* iris scanning and *(c)* photographing of (i) UK and (ii) other passengers at UK airports. [226479]

Mr. Woolas: Taking biometrics allows UKBA to fix and verify a person's identity, allowing a more informed decision about a person's eligibility and entitlement to enter the UK.

Under current policy, an authorised person has powers to require any arriving passenger, regardless of claimed nationality, to provide biometrics in the form of fingerprints and a photograph of their face at all ports of entry, including airports, for the purpose of ascertaining whether a passport or other document is genuine and relates to the person being examined. This may sometimes require both UK and other nationals to provide fingerprints and photographs to enable the UKBA to verify their identity and nationality.

The UK Border Agency will not store the biometric features of British citizens and EEA nationals.

Compulsory fingerprints and facial photographs are required from all visa applicants before arrival in the UK, and we are committed to extending this requirement, so that all foreign nationals from outside the European economic area register their fingerprints and facial photograph before crossing the border.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been allocated to tackling antisocial behaviour in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since the inception of such programmes. [228719]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has not allocated any direct funding to tackle antisocial behaviour in Jarrow which falls within South Tyneside local authority. Home Office funding allocated to the North East including South Tyneside can be found in the following table.

Between 2003-04 and 2007-08, the Home Office made £34.4 million available in each year specifically and solely to tackle antisocial behaviour. This includes funding for the TOGETHER, then Respect Programmes respectively and a grant for antisocial behaviour co-ordinators.

The antisocial behaviour co-ordinator funding has been renewed for the period 2008-11, and the Home Office contribution to ABG in England amounts to some £61 million, with £3 million available for Wales in each year (the same in cash terms as in 2007-08).

The antisocial behaviour co-ordinator funding forms part of the unringfenced Area Based Grant (ABG) in England. The position in Wales is slightly different, whereby the funding for Community Safety Partnerships has been consolidated into the Crime Reduction and Anti-Social Behaviour National Resource Grant. In both England and Wales, it is for local partnerships to agree how the grants received should be allocated against locally determined priorities, including antisocial behaviour.

There are many funding streams that impact on antisocial behaviour. A more detailed account can be found in the report by the National Audit Office "Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour" (HC99 2006-07, December 2006). Other Home Office led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour, for example the introduction of community support officers, but a monetary value cannot be assigned to that contribution. Similarly, other Government Departments fund services that directly bear upon antisocial behaviour. For example the Crown Prosecution Service provides a network of specialist antisocial behaviour prosecutors, and Her Majesty's Court Service provides specialist antisocial behaviour response courts. There are many other programmes and services that contribute, sometimes indirectly, to tackling antisocial behaviour, including diversionary activities for young people, action against enviro-crime such as fly-tipping, neighbourhood wardens, as well as neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management. A more detailed account can be found in the report of, and evidence to, the Home Affairs Select Committee's report on antisocial behaviour (Fifth Report, Session 2004-05, HC80).

£

	Financial year			
Area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Middlesbrough	71,500	132,314	388,060	591,874
Newcastle	84,232	252,411	445,000	781,643
South Tyneside	15,000	199,423	345,000	559,423
Sunderland	196,030	282,698	521,993	1,000,721
Darlington	—	77,208	268,000	345,208
Derwentside	—	—	190,000	190,000
Easington	53,000	60,954	115,000	228,954
Hartlepool	—	99,068	195,000	294,068
Redcar and Cleveland	—	—	315,000	315,000
Gateshead	53,000	60,000	175,000	288,000

Asylum: Sudan

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Sudanese nationals have been refused asylum in the UK in each of the last 12 months; and how many are awaiting a decision on an asylum application. [228482]

Mr. Woolas: The following table gives the most recently published figures available and shows the total number of refusals for Sudanese nationals, following initial decisions between July 2007 and June 2008.

The published figure for asylum applications split by nationality for people awaiting an initial decision is not available as the figures are based on an overall manual count which is not broken down into separate categories.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2007 and quarterly statistics for 2008 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum refusals on initial decisions[1] [2] in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants July 2007 to June 2008 by month, nationals of Sudan

Sudan	*Total refusals*
2007	
July	30
August	20
September	15
October	10
November	15
December	15
2008	
January	10
February	10
March	15
April	5
May	15
June	10

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5.
[2] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Zimbabwean nationals were refused asylum in the UK in each of the last 12 months; and how many are awaiting a decision on an asylum application. [228481]

Mr. Woolas: The following table gives the most recently published figures available and shows the total number of refusals for Zimbabwean nationals, following initial decisions between July 2007 and June 2008.

The published figure for asylum applications split by nationality for people awaiting an initial decision is not available as the figures are based on an overall manual count which is not broken down into separate categories.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual Statistics for 2007 and quarterly statistics for 2008 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum refusals on initial decisions[1] [2] in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants July 2007 to June 2008 by month, nationals of Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe	*Total refusals*
2007	
July	135
August	85
September	65
October	85
November	105
December	20
2008	
January	80
February	100
March	90
April	175
May	200
June	255

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5.
[2] Provisional figures.

Border and Immigration Agency

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by the Border and Immigration Agency and its predecessor on *(a)* taxi fares, *(b)* hotel accommodation, *(c)* first class rail travel, *(d)* domestic and international flights and *(e)* hospitality in each of the last five years. [205453]

Mr. Woolas: The amounts spent by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors on taxi fares, hotel accommodation, rail travel, domestic and international flights and hospitality in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. Rail travel includes all classes of travel.

£

	2007-08	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
(a) Taxi fares	730,729	721,875	472,420	256,357	359,563
(b) Hotel accommodation	4,599,275	5,878,389	2,436,262	1,611,415	[1]531,452
(c) Train travel	3,208,649	4,505,231	3,145,729	2,066,521	732,135
(d) Air fares	1,688,398	1,965,205	2,405,574	1,775,290	845,104
(e) Hospitality	293,490	346,800	367,376	437,637	60,501
Total	10,520,541	13,417,500	8,827,361	6,147,220	2,528,755[1]

[1] The financial record system in use at that time called BASS did not have a category to record hotel payments alone. This figure includes hotels and all subsistence, such as allowances for meals.

Cannabis: Crime

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* murders, *(b)* assaults, *(c)* robberies and *(d)* other crimes committed while under the influence of skunk cannabis in (i) Lancashire and (ii) England and Wales in each of the last five years. [229072]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 22 October 2008]*: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many agencies were sponsored by her Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228514]

Mr. Woolas: The "Next Steps Report 1997" (Cm3889) provides information on all Executive agencies as at 31 December 1997. Copies are available from the Library of the House. The most up-to-date list of Executive agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication "The List of Ministerial Responsibilities". The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on overnight accommodation by her Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228772]

Mr. Woolas: Expenditure figures for the Home Office on overnight accommodation by civil servants and all Ministers for the financial year 2007-08 (the last 12 months for which audited figures are available) was £5.79 million.

Information on civil servant overnight accommodation expenditure separately could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure figures on overnight accommodation for the Home Office includes information for the core Home Office and UK Border Agency.

When travelling on departmental business officials are expected to make efficient and cost-effective accommodation arrangements. Departments have authority to reimburse the expenses incurred by their own staff in connection with their employment, subject to the conditions set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Public Participation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the UK Border Agency and its predecessors spent on polling and focus groups in each of the last five years. [226058]

Mr. Woolas: During the past five years, spend on opinion polling by the Home Office and the UK Border Agency and predecessors has been as follows (IND and BIA were the UKBA predecessors):

	Spend on opinion polling (£)
2003-04	
HO (Inc. IND)	128,850
2004-05	
HO (Inc. IND)	124,610
2005-06	0
2006-07	
Home Office	97,075
BIA	82,500
2007-08	
Home Office	69,700
UKBA	45,000

We are unable to answer the question relating to focus groups on the grounds of disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy to her Department in 2007-08. [228149]

Mr. Woolas: Home Office spend on entertainment and advertising and promotion is set out in the following table. The Department's accounting systems do not identify separately the costs of public relations consultancy and these can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	£000
Entertainment	57
Advertising and promotion	8,144

All Home Office expenditure conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which complies with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Drugs: Afghanistan

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of Class A drugs sold on the streets of the UK which had originated in Afghanistan in the most recent period for which figures are available. [227930]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Afghanistan produces at least 90 per cent. of the identified heroin and opium supplied to the UK. The size of the UK's heroin street market has been estimated at £1.2 billion out of a total £4 billion for all Class A drugs. On that basis drugs originating from Afghanistan represent between 25 and 30 per cent. of the value of the UK's Class A market.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons UK nationals acting as sponsors for overseas applicants applying for a UK visa are required to send personal financial information abroad for presentation by the applicant to Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials at the appropriate overseas embassy; what consideration has been given to enabling such sponsors to present information to officials in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [228476]

Mr. Woolas: One of the requirements for entry in most immigration categories is that the applicant will either (a) be able to adequately maintain and accommodate himself/herself without recourse to public funds, or (b) be adequately maintained and accommodated without recourse to public funds by their sponsor, during their stay in the UK. Applicants are advised to provide evidence either of their own or their sponsor's ability to meet this requirement. Such evidence is submitted by the applicant not the sponsor. It is up to the sponsor whether to disclose the information.

UKvisas has become part of the UK Border Agency since 1 April and we shall look carefully at all the business processes to ensure they are as efficient and customer-friendly as possible.

Genetics: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who were *(a)* under 13 and *(b)* between (i) 13 and 15, (ii) 16 and 18 and (iii) 19 and 21 years of age had their DNA profiles added to the National DNA Database in each financial year for which records are available. [214981]

Meg Hillier: The following table shows the number of subject profiles loaded to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) in each of the last five years and the current year to date, as at 16 September 2008, for English and Welsh police forces, relating to persons who were *(a)* under 13 and *(b)* between (i) 13 and 15, (ii) 16 and 18 and (iii) 19 and 21 at the time the DNA sample was taken; and the estimated number of individuals to which these relate.

The number of subject profiles held is not the same as the number of individuals with a profile on the NDNAD. As it is possible for a person's profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded. Therefore, the number of individuals on the NDNAD is the number of subject profiles reduced by the replication rate, which at present is 13.3 per cent. for the whole NDNAD.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*1 April to 16 September 2008*
Profiles						
Under 13	10,853	12,983	16,315	17,300	14,885	6,053
13-15	45,180	55,397	71,144	73,626	59,896	24,505
16-18	59,406	66,959	86,066	88,528	70,461	30,936
19-21	52,338	53,422	71,020	73,676	59,076	25,709
Estimated individuals						
Under 13	9,410	11,256	14,145	14,999	12,905	5,248
13-15	39,171	48,029	61,682	63,834	51,930	21,246
16-18	51,505	58,053	74,619	76,754	61,090	26,822
19-21	45,377	46,317	61,574	63,877	51,219	22,290

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of adding DNA samples to the National DNA database in each year since 1995. [215821]

Meg Hillier: The process for adding information to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) has a number of elements, the costs of which fall to different parties. The process initially involves police taking a sample of a person's cells (usually by means of a swab of the inside of the cheek), following which the sample is sent to a forensic supplier who processes it to produce a profile. This is a numerical sequence representing a small part of the person's DNA. The profile is then added to the NDNAD, which operates to match profiles taken from individuals with those found at crime scenes.

The costs of taking and processing the sample fall to individual police forces. They vary depending on the contractual relationship between the force and the forensic supplier, which is commercially confidential.

The costs of operating the NDNAD and accrediting forensic suppliers fell, between 1995 and 2005 to the Forensic Science Service, between December 2005 and March 2007 to the Home Office, and since April 2007, to the National Policing Improvement Agency. For information on these costs, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1566-67W.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* convicted of human trafficking offences in the UK were (i) male and (ii) female in each of the last five years. [228299]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Of the 253 people arrested since the inception of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 for human trafficking 79 were female and 174 male. Of these nine females have been convicted of human trafficking along with 81 males.

There have been a total of 90 convictions for human trafficking under the Sexual Offences Act. Of these 27 were female and 63 male.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the nationalities were of those *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted of human trafficking offences in the UK in each of the last five years. [228408]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The nationalities of those arrested and convicted are varied and include people from east Europe, south east Europe, south Asia, China and the far east, and Britain.

More detailed breakdowns of nationality are not yet available. However, work is underway by the UK Human Trafficking Centre to make details including case outcomes, age, gender and nationality of defendants available in due course.

Immigration: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for leave to remain have been received from addresses in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in the last six months. [228239]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of leave to remain applications received from addresses in Bexleyheath, Crayford and the London Borough of Bexley between 1 April 2008 and 30 September 2008.

Leave to remain applications received for Bexleyheath and Crayford 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008

	Number of applications
Bexleyheath	30
Crayford	90
Total	120

Leave to remain applications received for the London borough of Bexley 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008

	Number of applications
Borough of Bexley	1,075

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Immigration: Children in Care

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of under 18-year-olds that arrived unaccompanied in the UK and were taken into care but subsequently went missing in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997. [229035]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked for reply.

The numbers of children looked after who went missing from local authority care in each of the last five years are shown in the following tables. Further information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

(a) The number of children looked after who went missing from care for 24 hours or more, in each of the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007, including asylum-seeking children, was as follows:

	Number
2003	990
2004	730
2005	860
2006	890
2007	950

These figures account for all children looked after excluding children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

(b) The number of asylum-seeking children who went missing from care for 24 hours or more, in each of the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007, was as follows:

	Number
2003	70
2004	50
2005	70
2006	110
2007	90

Note:

For both answers, where a child went missing from his or her agreed placement, for 24 hours or more, on more than one occasion during the same year, he or she has been counted only once.

The figures show the number of children looked after that went missing for a period of 24 hours or more. Some of these may have subsequently returned to care.

Immigration: Criminal Records

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines have been issued by her Department on the grant of indefinite leave to remain (ILR) under the legacy exercise to individuals with criminal convictions in the UK or in another country; what checks are carried out to ascertain the existence of a criminal record in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* another country in the case of those being considered for ILR under this exercise; and in this exercise how many people have been (i) found to have a criminal record in the UK, (ii) found to have a criminal record in another country, (iii) refused ILR because of a criminal record in the UK and (iv) refused ILR because of a criminal conviction in another country. [188653]

Mr. Woolas: All decisions are made on a case by case basis under existing law and policy. The UK Border Agency's website, as follows, provides details of policy and guidance that staff follow. This information is published as part of our commitment to freedom of information. Information on the number of cases found to be of those with criminal records in the UK and abroad (i-ii) and information on those refused ILR because of a criminal record in the UK and abroad (iii-iv) could be obtained by examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/

Offenders: Deportation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average period of time was between a foreign national prisoner finishing their sentence and being deported in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [196771]

Mr. Woolas: The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee in her letter of 23 July that the Agency is now removing or deporting around a fifth of all individuals direct from prison an average of 180 days before their release date. For the remaining individuals it is taking the Agency around 130 days, on average, to deport or remove them from the UK.

Offenders: Genetics

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples were taken from people *(a)* charged and *(b)* cautioned (i) in each police area and (ii) in total in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [198596]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (which came into effect in 2004) amended the Police and Criminal Evidence Act to give police the power to take a DNA sample from anyone arrested for a recordable offence and held in a police station. Since then, DNA samples have usually been taken following arrest, rather than at the later stages when a person is charged or cautioned. Information on the number of those from whom a DNA sample is taken who are later *(a)* charged and *(b)* cautioned is not available.

Official Residences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of *(a)* maintenance, *(b)* electricity, *(c)* heating and *(d)* other bills for the ministerial residence in South Eaton Place has been since it was vacated. [221191]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to replies given on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 807W and 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 100W.

Police: Football

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how football clubs are charged for the cost of policing during games; who is responsible for the level of such charges; and what criteria are used in such decisions; [227564]

(2) what her policy is on the scope of policing costs that football clubs should be liable for; and if she will make a statement; [227565]

(3) what estimate she has made of the proportion of costs of policing football matches and related fan movements not met by football clubs. [227566]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Policing at football matches in England and Wales is a special police services as provided for by section 25(1) of the Police Act 1996. That section provides that the local chief officer of police determines the need for and scale of any police deployment while the local police authority determines the scale of charges imposed for such deployments, section 25(1) is currently subject to judicial proceedings involving Greater Manchester Police and Wigan Athletic Football Club. We will consider carefully the interpretation of the court when it is available.

No record is held centrally of the cost of all football-related policing activity. 41 per cent. of all matches played in England and Wales during the 2007-08 football season were designated as 'police-free' on the basis of police risk assessment.

Sex Establishments: Regulation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers are available to local authorities wishing to regulate the establishment of lap dancing clubs. [228889]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* Lap dancing clubs that supply alcohol or provide entertainment in the form of music or dance must obtain an appropriate permission under the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act). If, following representations and a hearing, the licensing authority believes an application for a licence under the 2003 Act is contrary to the promotion of the four licensing objectives (prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm) it may refuse the application or grant the licence subject to conditions.

Lap dancing clubs are also subject to the law relating to public decency (Indecent Displays Act 1981) and brothel keeping (Sexual Offences Act 1956).

The planning system also provides local authorities with powers to help manage the number of lap dancing clubs in an area, having regard to local circumstances and any other material considerations. Following consultation with local authorities, the Home Secretary recently announced the Government's intention to give local communities a stronger say over the establishment of lap dancing clubs in their area. A number of measures are currently being considered in order to achieve this.

Smuggling: Meat

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meat detection sniffer dogs were in use at ports and airports in Great Britain on *(a)* 1 January and *(b)* 1 July in each year since 2002. [228519]

Mr. Woolas: Detector dogs trained to identify products of animal origin (POAO) including meat were introduced by DEFRA in 2002, and were transferred to HMRC in April 2003. The number of POAO Detector dogs in use at ports and airports in Great Britain on 1 January and 1 July in each year since 2002 is set out as follows:

	Number of dogs in use on 1 January	*Number of dogs in use on 1 July*
2002	0	2
2003	2	2
2004	5	6
2005	10	10
2006	10	11
2007	11	11
2008	9	9

These dogs are employed on a mobile basis across Great Britain. The actual number available for deployment can differ according to the need to train new dogs and handlers, and to replace dogs through retirement and ill health.

We cannot disclose further information about the deployment of the dogs as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent border controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

UK Border Agency: Data Protection

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to ensure that sensitive financial data required by the UK Border Agency to be sent overseas by those sponsoring applicants for visas is protected. [228648]

Mr. Woolas: Where an applicant states that they will be maintained and accommodated in the UK by their sponsor, it is reasonable to expect the applicant to provide evidence of their sponsor's ability to do so. All supporting documents, including any documents provided by an applicant about their sponsor, are treated confidentially and in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act by all UK visa-issuing posts overseas.

HEALTH

Advisory Group on Hepatitis

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* date of appointment and *(b)* expected date of end of term of office is of each member of (i) the Advisory Group on Hepatitis and (ii) the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. [229620]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Advisory Group on Hepatitis

Name	*Date of appointment*[1]	*Date of end of term*[2]
Professor Howard Thomas (Chair)	1 November 1999	31 December 2008
Professor William Irving (Vice Chair)	1 July 1998	30 June 2009
Professor Margaret Bassendine	1 August 2005	31 July 2011
Mrs. Joan Bell	1 March 2007	28 February 2010
Professor Graham Foster	1 August 2005	31 July 2010
Mr. Christopher Liffen	1 August 2005	31 July 2010
Dr. Alan Mitchell	1 August 2005	31 July 2011
Dr. Peter Moss	1 August 2005	31 July 2011
Dr. Elizabeth Murphy	1 February 2008	31 January 2011
Dr. Christopher Packham	4 April 2008	3 April 2011
Mr. Raymond Poll	1 August 2005	31 July 2010
Dr. R. Nicholas Pugh	1 March 2007	28 February 2010
Professor Richard Tedder	1 April 2000	31 December 2009
Dr. C.Y. William Tong	1 March 2007	28 February 2010

Joint Committee on Immunisation and Vaccination

Name	*Date of appointment*[1]	*Date of end of term*[2]
Professor Andrew Hall (Chair)	1 January 2005	31 December 2009
Dr. Raymond Borrow	2 April 2007	1 April 2011
Professor Alan Emond	30 March 2003	29 March 20011
Professor Jonathan Friedland	28 February 2006	27 February 2010
Professor Paul Griffiths	30 September 2000	29 September 2008
Dr. Jennifer Harries	1 October 2008	30 September 2012
Dr. Anthony Harnden	28 February 2006	28 February 2010
Dr. Paul Jackson	28 February 2006	27 February 2010
Professor Simon Kroll	30 September 2000	29 September 2008
Dr. Gabriella Laing	1 October 2008	30 September 2012
Mrs. Pauline MacDonald	2 April 2007	1 April 2011
Ms Anne McGowan	2 April 2007	1 April 2011
Dr. Andrew Riordan	1 October 2008	30 September 2012
Mrs. Vivienne Parry	30 November 2002	29 November 2010
Dr. Richard Roberts	31 October 2003	30 October 2011
Professor Claire-Ann Siegrist	1 October 2008	30 September 2012
Dr. Ahmed Syed	28 February 2006	27 February 2010
Professor Brent Taylor	30 September 2000	29 September 2008
Dr. Christopher Verity	30 November 2001	29 November 2009

[1] Date of first appointment. Some committee members have been re-appointed since their first appointment.
[2] Date of when current appointment ends.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the alcoholic beverage industry on the health effects of underage drinking. [228998]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been no recent meetings with the alcohol beverage industry to discuss the health effects of underage drinking.

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for cancer treatment in West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [228364]

Ann Keen: Information is not held in the format requested. The cancer waiting time standards of a maximum wait of 31 days from decision to treat to first cancer treatment and a maximum of 62 days from an urgent general practitioner referral to the start of cancer treatment were introduced for all patients from December 2005. The latest figures, for quarter one 2008-09, show that West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust's performance against the 31 days standard was 100 per cent., and its performance against the 62 day standard was 99.3 per cent.

Health: Gender

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the causes of health inequalities between men and women in the last 10 years; and whether any such research relates specifically to the Merseyside region. [228010]

Dawn Primarolo: None. The Department has however commissioned the Men's Health Forum (MHF) to undertake a study into the different ways in which men and women access health services. The MHF report is due to be published this autumn.

Hepatitis

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the public health guidelines on hepatitis B will be published. [229593]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 422-24W.

Iris London

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid by his Department to Iris London in each financial year since 2001; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Iris London in each year since 2000-01; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [225714]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department procure marketing services and agencies through the Central Office of Information (COI). Iris London is the holding company, and COI have contracted with either Iris Nation (Sponsorship) or Iris Direct (Direct Marketing), not with the holding group.

Payments to Iris London and contracts awarded in each financial year since 2000-01 are detailed as follows. No penalties for default have been imposed in any of the contract provisions. In each case the initial length of contract is provided as is the number of agencies shortlisted in any tender.

2001-02

Teenage Pregnancies sponsorship—£99,438.40

(One year contract awarded after tender involving three agencies. This initial contract was commissioned by DCSF although sexual health is a joint DH/DCSF programme with shared objectives.)

2002-03

Teenage Pregnancies sponsorship—£111,765.00

(Contract extended)

Adult Sexual Health Partnership Marketing—£31,090.00

(One year contract awarded without tender due to Iris already working on Teenage Pregnancy sponsorship with DCSF.)

2003-04

Adult Sexual Health Partnership Marketing—£179,004.00

(Contract extended)

Teenage Pregnancies Partnership Marketing—£235,780.00

(Contract extended)

2004-05

Adult Sexual Health Partnership Marketing—£201,469.75

(Contract extended)

Teenage Pregnancies Partnership Marketing—£165,834.60

(Contract extended)

2005-06

Adult Sexual Health Partnership Marketing—£259,627.50

(Contract extended)

Teenage Pregnancies Partnership Marketing—£419,683.00

(Contract extended)

Tobacco Control Programme Partnership Marketing—£71,840.00

(Contract awarded for six months after tender involving three agencies)

2006-07

Adult Sexual Health Partnership Marketing—£663,005.21

(Contract extended)

Teenage Pregnancies Partnership Marketing—£402,988.60

(Contract extended)

Anti-Tobacco Partnership Marketing—£155,729.00

(Contract extended)

2007-08

Adult Sexual Health Partnership Marketing—£551,806.47

(Contract extended, repitched in July 2008 involving three agencies. Iris reappointed.)

Teenage Pregnancies Partnership Marketing—£346,465.68

(Contract extended, repitched in July 2008 involving three agencies. Iris reappointed.)

Anti-Tobacco Partnership Marketing—£200,540.75

(Contract extended)

COI is subject to the EU public procurement directive embodied in UK law by the Public Contract Regulations 2006. The Regulations govern the way in which Government contracts are advertised and awarded. For contracts over a threshold value it is a requirement for them to be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), which imposes strict timescales that cannot be shortened. To enable the Department to appoint a supplier in the shortest possible time, COI have a number of framework agreements (agency rosters) in place. Frameworks are themselves advertised in the OJEU, therefore contracts awarded under the terms and conditions of the framework do not need to be re-advertised or apply the strict timescales—as long as timescales are reasonable to allow the suppliers time to provide an adequate response. The majority of the Department's spend with external suppliers is via these frameworks.

A detailed evaluation process is used for agency selection as part of any tender process. Key criteria for appointment of an agency and quality markers for a successful campaign are identified in conjunction with COI prior to any tender. Evaluation procedures are also utilised to continually evaluate agency performance against set objectives.

Renewal without re-tender has taken place in a number of cases. Each contract awarded is for a specific initial term usually relating to the allocated budget for that current financial year. Contracts have included the option for contract extension as stated in COI guidelines:

> "COI reserves the right to extend the contract beyond the period stated above. Payment for any extension shall be based upon the Contract Price subject to fair and reasonable adjustment, to be agreed between COI and the Contractor".

Medical Equipment

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities have decided to proceed with full implementation of transforming community equipment services following the recent trials. [229428]

Phil Hope: Implementing the transforming community equipment service is a local decision and any information on decision-making should be referred to each local authority and health partnership.

NHS: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses, *(b)* general practitioners, *(c)* surgeons, *(d)* ward support staff and *(e)* administrative staff were employed in the NHS in each year since 2004. [226865]

Ann Keen: The data requested for nurses, general practitioners, surgeons (consultants), and administration staff are shown in the following table. It is not possible to break down data to indicate which support staff work on wards. Therefore all data on support staff are given.

NHS HCHS and General Practice work force (excluding GP retainers[1]) in England as at 30 September each specified year

				Headcount
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total employed staff[1]	1,331,087	1,365,388	1,338,140	1,330,544
Professionally qualified clinical staff	660,706	679,157	674,621	681,246
All doctors[1]	117,036	122,345	125,612	127,645
Medical and dental staff within the surgical group of specialties	18,290	19,096	19,425	19,398
Of which:				
Consultants	5,754	5,988	6,129	6,260
GPs[1] Including registrars	34,085	35,302	35,369	35,855
Qualified nursing staff[2]	397,515	404,161	398,335	399,597
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	128,883	134,534	134,496	136,976
Qualified ambulance staff	17,272	18,117	16,176	17,028
Support to clinical staff	251,176	254,533	235,710	227,349
Unqualified nursing staff	139,257	136,429	123,479	115,326
Unqualified ST and T staff	36,188	37,525	37,342	37,417
Healthcare assistants	41,740	43,280	41,747	43,055
Nursing areas of work	37,803	39,213	39,657	41,093
ST and T areas of work	905	964	925	781
Other areas of work	3,032	3,103	1,165	1,181
Support staff	33,991	35,299	33,142	31,551
Nursing areas of work	23,716	25,212	23,276	22,856
ST and T areas of work	1,241	1,118	1,231	1,110
Other areas of work	9,034	8,969	8,635	7,585
Total clerical and administrative staff[3]	260,857	272,565	261,053	256,686
Central functions	129,249	136,513	130,559	128,620
Hotel, property and estates	10,827	10,762	9,099	8,818
ST and T support	17,356	16,587	15,282	14,391
Clerical support	99,845	105,004	102,486	101,125
Ambulance service support	3,580	3,699	3,627	3,732
Other non-medical staff[4]	46,094	47,039	47,114	47,888
Other GP practice staff[5]	90,110	89,190	95,845	94,515

[1] Figures exclude GP Retainers.

[2] Nursing and midwifery figures exclude students on training courses leading to a first qualification as a nurse or midwife. Includes GP practice nurses.

[3] Examples of staff in Central Functions are staff in HR, informatics, payroll, and library staff. Examples of staff in Hotel, property and estates are clerical laundry staff, domestic services and home wardens. Examples of staff in ST and T support are clerical staff in audiology, haematology, dietetics and microbiology. Ambulance service support staff are ambulance controllers, training staff and ambulance officers.

[4] Other non-medical staff includes ambulance support staff, maintenance and works staff and a small number of other and unknown staff.

[5] Other practice staff—There is no breakdown of type of work for headcount data. However type of work is available for full time equivalent practice staff and the majority (over 60 per cent. in 2007) were admin and clerical staff.

Notes:

1. In 2006 ambulance staff were collected under new, more detailed, occupation codes. As a result qualified totals and support to ambulance staff totals are not directly comparable with previous years.
2. Data qualify: Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) In England. The NHS Information Centre for hearth and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal medical services statistics

Obesity

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 457W on Health: obesity, which public service agreements published by the Government between 1998 and 2004 were related to levels of obesity; and what evidence he has assessed on the effect these targets have had on levels of obesity. [228979]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 457W.

The Government commissioned the Foresight team to undertake a detailed analysis on obesity in the United Kingdom. The Foresight report "Tackling Obesities: Future Choices", which has been placed in the Library, set out the long-term scale of the obesity problem, and its complexities. In response, we have set a new ambition, and developed a new strategy "Healthy Weight", "Healthy

Lives: a Cross-Government Strategy for England", which we published in January this year. This has already been placed in the Library.

Obesity: Children

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Government did not set a target to reduce levels of obesity in children between 1997 and 2004. [228994]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 457W.

A public service agreement (PSA) target was set in 2004 to halt the year on year rise in obesity among children aged 11 by 2010 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole.

Patients: Safety

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made towards *(a)* designation of specialised services to guarantee patient safety and *(b)* ensuring that service staff are used effectively in accordance with his Department's operating framework for 2008-09. [228651]

Ann Keen: The process of designating the providers of specialised services is being undertaken as part of the work programme of the National Specialised Commissioning Group, which has issued guidance to Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) on its expected approach. This includes model documentation—to ensure that the process is fair and transparent. Such documentation will need to cover details of the service model, service standards, patient access and egress criteria and treatment protocols, and information requirements. It will also need to be discussed with patient groups. The work of producing model documentation for the first 15 services has been divided between different SCGs. A further eight services will be designated following some form of nationally co-ordinated review (e.g. burn care or rare cancers).

Prostate Cancer

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that cancer networks adhere to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on prostate cancer; [229310]

(2) has taken to ensure that prostate cancer patients are reviewed by multi-disciplinary teams in all primary care trusts. [229320]

Ann Keen: Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancer, published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2002, addresses the care of prostate cancer patients.

Strategic health authorities have submitted action plans to demonstrate how they will implement this guidance. The Department and the Healthcare Commission monitor progress against these plans.

The most recent round of peer review visits confirmed that the care of most cancer patients is managed by multidisciplinary teams, one of the key principles of the Improving Outcomes series of guidance.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding is available for treatment of metastatic prostate cancer in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority area and *(c)* each primary care trust in 2008-09. [229317]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of each primary care trust (PCT) to commission healthcare services for their local populations, including the treatment of metastatic prostate cancer, using the funds allocated to them in their baseline allocations.

A table showing the revenue allocations made to each PCT in 2008-09 has already been placed in the Library.

The following table shows the total revenue allocation provided to each strategic health authority (SHA) area in 2008-09 and the overall total for England.

SHA	*2008-09 recurrent allocation (£000)*
East Midlands SHA	5,900,035
East of England SHA	7,494,446
London SHA	12,245,265
North East SHA	4,134,810
North West SHA	10,904,960
South Central SHA	5,148,563
South East Coast SHA	5,952,479
South West SHA	7,056,315
West Midlands SHA	7,827,382
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	7,533,215
England	74,197,471

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical nurse specialists for prostate cancer there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority area and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [229319]

Ann Keen: The information requested is unavailable. Work force planning is a matter for local determination. It is for local service providers and work force planners to determine the needs of their local populations for clinical nurses specialists for prostate cancer.

Thame Community Hospital: Finance

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to *(a)* announce the amount of funding Thame Community Hospital, Oxfordshire, will receive from the Community Hospital Development Fund and *(b)* make public information on the draw-down terms associated with such funding. [229332]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has authorised a contribution from the community hospitals and services programme central fund of £4 million for the redevelopment of Thame Community Hospital and the local NHS is progressing the scheme. The draw down of funding is subject to the normal business case processes.

The new hospital will offer local people better access to wide range of local services and diagnostics, in high quality, up to date, facilities.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which countries are classified as possessing a level of tuberculosis infection sufficient to justify the treatment of their nationals as a high risk group under the new guidelines for the national BCG vaccination programme. [228988]

Dawn Primarolo: The Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination programme offers the BCG vaccine to those at greatest risk of exposure. These are:

all infants (aged 0 to 12 months) living in areas of the UK where the annual incidence of tuberculosis (TB) is 40 in 100,000 or greater;

all infants (aged 0 to 12 months) with a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where the annual incidence of TB is 40 in 100,000 or greater;

previously unvaccinated children aged one to five years with a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where the annual incidence of TB is 40 in 100,000 or greater. These children should be identified at suitable opportunities, and can normally be vaccinated without tuberculin testing;

previously unvaccinated, tuberculin-negative children aged from six to under 16 years of age with a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where the annual incidence of TB is 40 in 100,000 or greater. These children should be identified at suitable opportunities, tuberculin tested and vaccinated if negative;

previously unvaccinated tuberculin-negative contacts of cases of respiratory TB; and

previously unvaccinated, tuberculin-negative new entrants under 16 years of age who were born in or who have lived for a prolonged period (at least three months) in a country with an annual TB incidence of 40 in 100,000 or greater.

BCG may be required for previously unvaccinated, tuberculin negative individuals according to the destination and nature of travel. BCG vaccine is recommended for those under 16 years of age who are going to live or work with local people for more than three months in a country where the annual incidence of TB is 40 in 100,000 or greater.

The following countries have an annual incidence of TB equal to or greater than 40 in 100,000 people.

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
China
China, Hong Kong SAR
China, Macao SAR
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Cote d'Ivoire
Croatia
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
DPR Korea
DR Congo
Ecuador
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Ghana
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao PDR
Latvia
Lesotho
Liberia
Lithuania
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Micronesia
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nauru

Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Niue
Northern Mariana Islands
Pakistan
Palau
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Qatar
Rep. of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Sao Tome & Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tokelau
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukraine
UR Tanzania
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Wallis and Futuna
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Source:

World Health Organization. Global Tuberculosis Control: Surveillance, Planning, Financing. WHO Report 2008. Geneva, WHO/HTM/TB/2008.393. www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of tuberculosis infection was among children under 11 years of age in each of the last five years. [228989]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is in the following table.

	Number of cases aged 0-10 years	*Rate of TB per 100,000 population*
2002	263	4.10
2003	209	3.30
2004	277	4.44
2005	292	4.61
2006	246	3.93

Notes:

1. The data provided are for England only.
2. They are for children aged 0-10 years inclusive.
3. Validated data for 2007 are not yet available.

Source:

Health Protection Agency Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance (ETS) system. Mid-year population estimates were compiled from Office of National Statistics (ONS) data.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of children who will be vaccinated under the revised guidelines for the national BCG vaccination programme and *(b)* the cost of the revised programme. [228990]

Dawn Primarolo: There were nearly 220,000 Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccinations in 2007-08 (NHS Immunisation Statistics, England 2007-08).

The cost of administering the programme is included in primary care trusts' overall budget and cannot be separated out.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for moving to a policy of selective rather than universal vaccination of children against tuberculosis. [229725]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department moved to a selective policy following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Having reviewed all available scientific and epidemiological evidence, the JCVI recommended from September 2005 that a targeted approach to vaccination should be introduced to replace the national schools Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) programme.

The key reasons behind this decision were:

the primary role of the BCG vaccination is to protect individuals at high risk of exposure to tuberculosis (TB);

since the introduction of the schools based BGC programme the epidemiology of TB has changed from a disease of the general population in the 1950s to one of predominately high-risk groups;

targeted BCG vaccination means that the majority of children at high risk of TB exposure will now be vaccinated earlier in life than under the previous policy;

the BCG is most effective at preventing severe forms of TB in infants and young children; and

protection decreases with time but repeated vaccination does not appear to offer any additional protection.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bangladesh: Religious Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has with the government of Bangladesh on outbreaks of violence against Christians and other religious minorities. [227644]

Bill Rammell: We are not aware of any recent major outbreaks of violence against Christians or other religious minorities in Bangladesh. However, we continue to monitor the situation closely. The UK condemns the persecution of individuals or groups because of their faith or belief. We take very seriously issues of discrimination on grounds of religion and press for adherence to the principles of religious freedoms enshrined in the UN Charter and international conventions.

Burma: Arms Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of India on arms sales to the Government of Burma. [228185]

Bill Rammell: The matter was raised with the Indian Government last year when we became aware that India had sold arms to Burma. If further sales come to our attention, we will again raise our concerns. The EU has an arms embargo against Burma and calls on all countries to consider carefully whether arms which are used against civilians should be sold to Burma.

We continue to raise the need for political change in Burma with the Indian Government at the highest levels. We hope that, as the world's largest democracy, India will use the influence that it has on the Burmese regime to encourage the start of an inclusive political process leading to genuine democracy and respect for human rights.

Burma: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Burma about the incidence of human rights abuses in that country since 22nd July 2008. [228213]

Bill Rammell: As part of the EU Common Position, we do not engage at ministerial level with the regime in Burma. Our ambassador in Rangoon has met Burmese officials on a number of occasions since 22 July to raise our concerns about the human rights situation in the country. Recent exchanges have focused on prisoner welfare, the release of political prisoners and the need for a genuinely inclusive political process. The ambassador also discussed specific abuses inflicted on Burma's ethnic groups with Professor Gambari during the UN envoy's visit in August.

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his ASEAN counterparts on the supply of military police and security equipment to the Government of Burma. [228215]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of reports that the Government of Burma has purchased military and security equipment from some Association of South-East Asia Nations (ASEAN) countries. Burma is subject to an EU arms embargo and we encourage all countries, including members of ASEAN, to observe responsible arms trade policies towards Burma and other countries whose activities may be a cause for concern.

We regularly urge ASEAN countries to do all they can to promote respect for human rights and a genuine transition to democracy in Burma. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed these issues with the Foreign Ministers of Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN during a meeting with the UN Secretary-General on 27 September in New York.

Burma: Political Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of political prisoners in Burma. [228212]

Bill Rammell: In his report to the UN General Assembly of 5 September 2008, the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma stated that

> "according to reliable sources, some 2,000 political and civil activists were still imprisoned in Myanmar".

This is consistent with other reports the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received. We continue to raise the need for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, in all our contacts with the Burmese regime and those countries with influence over it.

Burma: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese Government on the conduct of the Government of Burma. [228211]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised our deep concern about the situation in Burma with Chinese Premier Wen on 24 September, during UN General Assembly Ministerial week in New York. He also raised Burma with both Premier Wen and President Hu in Beijing in August. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Burma with Foreign Minister Yang on 12 June, and will raise the issue again when they meet at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit in Beijing later this month. Officials maintain an active dialogue with the Chinese Government through our embassies in Beijing and Rangoon, and with the Chinese embassy in London. In all these discussions, we have consistently encouraged China to bring its influence to bear on the Burmese regime to respond to the demands of the UN Security Council and broader international community.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Burma on the outcome of the most recent visit to Burma by the UN special rapporteur. [228218]

Bill Rammell: The UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma visited the country between 3 and 7 August and delivered a report of his observations to the UN General Assembly on 5 September 2008. Ministerial contact with the regime is restricted by the EU Common Position on Burma. However, our ambassador in Rangoon regularly raises our deep concern about the human rights situation, including the issues highlighted in the

Special Rapporteur's report. We also support the work of the Special Rapporteur through the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

Burma: UN Resolutions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the pursuit of a United Nations Security Council resolution on Burma since 22 July 2008. [228214]

Bill Rammell: In the past 12 months we have helped to secure unprecedented UN Security Council action on Burma in the form of two strongly-worded presidential statements demanding: the release of political prisoners; the start of credible talks between the regime, opposition and ethnic groups; and full co-operation with the UN. We continue to work with EU partners to keep Burma on the UN Security Council agenda. A UN Security Council Resolution in the short term is not feasible as some members, including permanent members, will block action on this front. We have not discussed this specific issue with EU partners since 22 July 2008.

Colombia: Arms Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects of securing an EU embargo on arms supplies to Colombia. [228203]

Gillian Merron: There has been no discussion among EU partners about an EU arms embargo on Colombia. All export licence applications to export arms to Colombia are rigorously assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

Diplomatic Service: Passports

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many valid UK diplomatic passports are held by *(a)* serving accredited UK diplomats, *(b)* other Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials, *(c)* serving military personnel, *(d)* officials of other Government Departments, *(e)* Ministers of the Crown, *(f)* hon. Members who do not hold ministerial office and *(g)* others. [223409]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep separate records of diplomatic and official passports issued, nor does it break down how many passports are issued to staff and dependants who are not members of the Diplomatic Service.

A manual check of all diplomatic and official passport application forms would be required to provide this information. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office practice is to issue diplomatic passports to officers who are to serve as diplomatic agents abroad. Official passports are issued to those who are to serve as administrative or technical staff. The guidelines under which they are to be issued are rigorously defined to accredited personnel and dependants on overseas postings. Diplomatic and official passports are issued to staff other than members of the Diplomatic Service, given that it is not only diplomatic staff that go on overseas postings.

Ethiopia: Arms Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the sale of arms to Ethiopia. [228184]

Gillian Merron: The Minister for Africa, the Middle East and Asia announced the Government's policy on export licensing in a PQ answer on 26 October 2000, *Official Report*, columns 199-203W.

In summary, all relevant export licence applications, including those of arms to Ethiopia, are rigorously assessed on a case by case basis against the consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking account of the circumstances prevailing at the time and other relevant announced Government policies.

An export licence will not be issued if the arguments for doing so are outweighed by the need to comply with the UK's international obligations and commitments, by concern that the goods might be used for internal repression or international aggression, by the risks to regional stability or by other considerations as described in the EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

Guatemala: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on extrajudicial killing in Guatemala. [228217]

Gillian Merron: According to statistics from the non-governmental organization, Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo, there were 94 extrajudicial killings in Guatemala, in the first nine months of 2008. Against the country's overall murder rate, official statistics show to date, 3,621 murders in 2008 and 5,000 in the previous year, of which fewer than 3 per cent. of the perpetrators brought to justice.

President Colom, who came to power in January 2008, has taken steps to address these high levels of violent crime and impunity. He replaced the Minister of the Interior, the Attorney General and most recently, the Director and Deputy Director of the National Police. The new Director of Police is working to purge the service of officers linked to corruption and organised crime. The British embassy in Guatemala City supports these efforts, and the work of the UN-sponsored International Commission on Corruption and Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) which recently completed its first year of activities.

India: Christianity

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Indian Government on the alleged persecution of Christians in Orissa state; and if he will make a statement. [226082]

Bill Rammell: We are deeply concerned by the recent reports of attacks against Christians in Orissa. There can be no justification for such violent attacks against innocent people. On 1 October, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Asia, Africa and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown raised the matter with the Indian High Commissioner and on 17 October he raised it in Delhi with the Minister of External Affairs, Arnand Sharma. He also used his recent visit to India to raise it with the chairman of the Minorities Commission, Mr. Mohammed Quereshi. We understand that the Indian Government fully recognise the seriousness of these incidents and are engaged with the Orissa State authorities in restoring law and order to that region.

India: Terrorism

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of terrorist attacks in India over the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* location and *(b)* community affected. [226236]

Bill Rammell: We have received reports of numerous terrorist attacks in India over the last 12 months. The most significant have been:

23 November 2007: Varanasi, Faizabad and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, killing 13 people

13 May 2008: Jaipur, killing 80

25 July 2008: Bangalore, killing two

26 July 2008: Ahmedabad, killing 49

13 September 2008: Delhi, five serial bomb blasts killed at least 23 and injured over 100

27 September 2008: South Delhi, killing two and injuring two dozen

29 September 2008: Modasa (Gujarat), and Malegaon (Maharashtra), killing four and injuring 51

1 October 2008: Agartala (Tripura), injuring 50

The multi-ethnic and multicultural character of Indian society means it is not possible to single out which communities have been affected.

There have been several other low-level attacks in India over the last 12 months. Notably, Naxalite activity has registered consistently high levels of violence in recent years, averaging around 1,500 incidents and 800 deaths each year since 2003. These are higher casualty figures than for Jammu and Kashmir and the insurgencies in Northeast India.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the Government is providing to India to assist counter-terrorism activities in India; and if he will make a statement. [226238]

Bill Rammell: The UK and India enjoy a close working relationship on countering terrorism and extremism. This is underpinned by Prime Ministerial agreement at annual UK/India summits to work together in specific areas.

At the most recent summit in January we agreed to intensify practical co-operation and the sharing of experience in the fight against terrorism. We have agreed to build on existing co-operation, including in the protection of critical national infrastructure, mass transit systems and the security of major sporting events including the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games and the London 2012 Olympics. In addition, we have agreed to expand co-operation on civil aviation security and crisis management, and to establish a new bilateral dialogue on terrorist financing. Practical work is now being taken forward across the UK and Indian Governments. We expect to further strengthen this co-operation through a meeting of the Indo-UK Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism later this year.

Multilaterally, the UK and India remain committed to pursuing an agreement in the UN on the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism. The UK continues to support India's request for full membership of the Financial Action Task Force.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms are in place for co-operation with the Indian Government on intelligence relating to *(a)* the causes of and *(b)* the perpetrators of terrorism in India. [226240]

Bill Rammell: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters.

We value our co-operation with India across a range of counter-terrorism issues and we expect to further strengthen co-operation through a meeting of the Indo-UK Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism later this year.

International Criminal Court

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* projected and *(b)* maximum number of investigations and trials is the International Criminal Court could undertake under its present budget and strategic plans. [224638]

Gillian Merron: The Registrar of the International Criminal Court (ICC) draws up a budget for each calendar year for approval by States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC. The budget is prepared on the basis of assumptions about the level of activity for the following year. The overall budget for 2008 of €90.4 million was drawn up on the expectation that at least one trial would take place; and that the Office of the Prosecutor would continue to pursue investigations in four situations (relating to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Uganda and Sudan/Darfur). Following the arrest and surrender of two further individuals to the ICC, the Registrar sought permission, in accordance with the ICC Financial Regulations and Rules, to use the court's contingency fund to meet the unforecast costs relating to a second trial in 2008. This was approved but, as the first trial has now been delayed, the costs for that second trial are likely to be met within the existing 2008 budget.

The budget for 2009 has not yet been finalised, but the court will base its planned expenditure on the assumptions that: two trials will take place consecutively; there will be some pre-trial activities for a third; and the Prosecutor will continue investigations in three of the situations currently before the court, with no new investigations envisaged.

Iran: Banks

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of banks domiciled in Iran, including their branches and subsidiaries abroad, that was distributed to UN Security Council members by the United Kingdom, the United States and France on 1 August. [225586]

David Miliband: A copy of the document has been placed in the Library of the House.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [227284]

Gillian Merron: Kenya has returned to stability following the violence earlier this year that arose from the disputed December 2007 elections. The new Grand Coalition Government has made some progress towards implementing the agenda for reform agreed by all parties during Kofi Annan's mediation process. Achieving the agreed benchmarks for reform along with early steps to tackle the issues that underlay the violence, such as poverty, inequality and impunity, will ensure confidence in a commitment to the process. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said after meeting Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga on 23 July 2008, we welcome the commitment of the political parties in Kenya to power-sharing and their efforts to live up to the expectations of the Kenyan people. The Government, with their international partners, are working to assist Kenya with their reform agenda in the pursuit of longer-term stability and growth, and to prevent such violence recurring.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to assist the Government of Pakistan in reducing the incidence of extremism in that country. [224998]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed the problem of extremism in Pakistan with President Zardari on 16 September. He offered Pakistan the UK's full support, including through support for development, capacity-building and counter-terrorism cooperation.

We continue to work with Pakistan to help tackle the serious development, security and economic problems that Pakistan faces. The UK and Pakistan have a broad programme of counter-terrorism cooperation. This includes providing operational support in key law enforcement and prosecuting agencies. We will also be doubling development spending in Pakistan to £480 million over the next three years to help strengthen democratic institutions, promote good governance, provide better quality education and increase health care provision. This assistance should also help to address some of the underlying causes of radicalisation.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of incidents involving the alleged persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Pakistan; and when he last raised the subject with the Government of Pakistan. [226091]

Bill Rammell: Members of the Ahmadiyya community in the United Kingdom recently informed us about comments made on a popular Pakistani television programme inciting violence against their community. Within several days, two prominent members of the Ahmadiyya community in Karachi were killed. Our deputy high commission in Karachi discussed this with the provincial Sindh Government, who are investigating the broadcast.

With our EU partners, we regularly raise concerns about the treatment of all minority groups with the Government of Pakistan. The last specific intervention by the EU on the persecution of the Ahmaddiya community took place in July.

Sudan: Arms Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the UN arms embargo on Sudan. [228179]

Gillian Merron: We note that the latest report, published on 3 October 2007, of the UN Panel of Exports (which monitors the UN arms embargo) identified violations of the embargo. The UK continues to request that the UN extend its arms embargo on Darfur to all of Sudan, but not all Security Council members agree.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* compliance with and *(b)* breaches of the UN arms embargo on Darfur. [228187]

Gillian Merron: In its latest report of 3 October 2007, the UN Panel of Experts (which was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1591 to monitor the arms embargo on Darfur) assessed that violations of the arms embargo continued, both by the Government of Sudan and non-State armed groups, during the period of the report (29 September 2006 to 29 August 2007). The Panel reported that heavy weapons (artillery pieces), small arms, ammunition and other military equipment were entering Darfur from other countries. The Panel further reported that the Government of Sudan had not submitted the necessary requests of approval to the UN to enable the movement of weapons, ammunition or other military equipment into Darfur, thereby knowingly violating the provisions of the Resolution.

The UK continues to request that the UN extend its arms embargo on Darfur to all of Sudan, but not all Security Council members agree. The EU has implemented an arms embargo on the whole of Sudan via Common Position 2005/411/CFSP.

Sudan: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to facilitate free and fair elections in Sudan as outlined in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [227612]

Gillian Merron: As Chair of the donor working group on elections in Khartoum, we work with other donors and the UN to lobby the Government of Sudan to amend key legislation on national security, the media and political parties to create an environment for free and fair elections.

The UK has supported civic education and media training programmes since late 2007. We will contribute an initial £1.5 million to the UN elections programme to fund civic and voter education, civil society training, and training for electoral staff.

We regularly raise the issue of elections, and emphasise the need for elections to be free and fair, with Government and opposition parties in north and south Sudan.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the establishment of a no-fly zone over Darfur. [228188]

Gillian Merron: We are not currently proposing a no-fly zone for Darfur. We assess that a no-fly zone would restrict essential humanitarian operations and be a major logistical challenge due to the size of Darfur and the lack of available air assets. The UN-African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is mandated to monitor military activity, including flights prohibited by UN Security Council Resolution 1591. We continue to press all parties for the rapid and full deployment of UNAMID.

Sudan: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Russian Government and *(b)* the Chinese Government on the political and security situation in Darfur. [228178]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Darfur with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang on 27 September in New York.

We have regular discussions with the officials of the Russian and Chinese Governments about Darfur. We have urged them to support the effective deployment of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur and to use their influence with the Government of Sudan to press Sudan to fulfil its commitments and end the violence.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [228190]

Gillian Merron: The new UN-African Union Chief Mediator for the Darfur political process, Djibril Bassolé, former Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso, arrived in Sudan on 28 August. This is a welcome step in renewing the Darfur political process. We stand ready to support him in his efforts to reinvigorate the peace process.

Following the application by the International Criminal Court's Prosecutor for an arrest warrant for President Bashir on 14 July, the Government of Sudan announced plans for a "Sudan People's Initiative" on Darfur which held its first meeting on 16 October. The Government of Qatar and the Arab League have also announced that they want to work on a peace initiative for Darfur. We hope these initiatives will support the efforts of the UN-African Union Chief Mediator and lead to a sustainable peace.

Sudan: Travel Information

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures his Department uses to compile its advice on travel to Sudan. [227611]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Travel Advice is under constant review. It is thoroughly checked at least once every month and following any significant incident.

The aim of the Travel Advice for Sudan, as with elsewhere, is to provide information to enable British nationals to make informed decisions about their safety abroad.

The Travel Advice for all countries is based on information from experts. The National Travel Health Network and Centre advise on all health matters, the Met Office on weather fronts, the Department of Transport on aviation issues and our Posts and geographical desks provide a wealth of in-country expertise. Information from the intelligence services is also sought. All of the expert advice will be considered as part of the procedures prior to updating the Travel Advice.

For significant changes to the Travel Advice, including where a travel warning is put in place or removed, ministerial approval is required. We only advise against travel or all but essential travel to a country when we believe the threats are such that the safety of British travellers is at risk.

The Travel Advice for Sudan was last updated on 6 October 2008.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to question 220187, on staff, tabled on 15 July. [226918]

Gillian Merron: This PQ was answered on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 96W. I apologise for the delay.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Prostate Cancer

Mark Hunter: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many diagnoses of prostate cancer there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority area and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [229318]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated October 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many diagnoses of prostate cancer there were in (a) England, (b) each strategic health authority area and (c) each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. [229318]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer are for the year 2005. Figures for 1997 to 2005 for (a) England, (b) each strategic health authority area and (c) each primary care trust area are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of prostate[1], males: England, strategic health authorities and primary care organisations grouped within strategic health authorities[2, 3] 1997 to 2005

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
England	19,940	20,428	22,297	24,415	27,724	27,878	28,074	30,320	28,886
North East SHA	894	1,064	1,231	1,248	1,410	1,393	1,488	1,347	1,403
North West SHA	2,554	2,627	2,843	3,105	3,655	3,533	3,626	4,402	4,293
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	1,859	1,823	1,931	2,379	2,655	2,620	2,669	2,998	2,729
East Midlands SHA	1,465	1,531	1,749	1,942	2,121	2,143	2,104	2,498	2,619
West Midlands SHA	2,085	2,247	2,415	2,727	3,083	3,241	3,274	3,502	3,350
East of England SHA	2,256	2,272	2,627	2,957	3,222	3,304	3,247	3,293	3,453
London SHA	2,602	2,666	2,753	2,820	3,103	3,147	3,119	3,174	2,875
South East Coast SHA	2,090	2,001	2,238	2,305	2,472	2,340	2,324	2,439	2,317
South Central SHA	1,487	1,642	1,826	2,069	2,389	2,390	2,350	2,588	2,169
South West SHA	2,648	2,555	2,684	2,863	3,614	3,767	3,873	4,079	3,678
North East SHA									
County Durham	180	206	174	204	248	233	264	254	247
Darlington	47	46	66	47	39	69	58	55	47
Gateshead	74	98	114	94	116	126	120	101	148
Hartlepool	34	36	43	40	47	45	60	48	36
Middlesbrough	77	70	77	71	83	48	96	88	103
Newcastle	77	102	116	152	127	182	127	123	91
North Tees	42	63	83	82	87	88	76	75	79
North Tyneside	72	74	92	126	134	122	142	125	106
Northumberland	93	146	157	161	247	198	201	180	229
Redcar and Cleveland	64	52	93	101	85	83	111	98	97
South Tyneside	47	47	57	51	52	73	76	60	64
Sunderland Teaching	87	124	159	119	145	126	157	140	156
North West SHA									
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	54	72	76	112	138	131	134	192	209
Blackburn with Darwen	44	43	62	61	68	57	68	72	59
Blackpool	58	70	69	72	84	114	137	118	90
Bolton	88	94	84	86	163	116	104	167	142
Bury	65	68	77	68	101	126	100	125	136
Central and Eastern Cheshire	128	162	222	256	280	268	281	312	282
Central Lancashire	205	193	192	223	252	226	254	321	379
Cumbria	204	198	189	235	250	284	227	229	299
East Lancashire	164	161	187	232	238	201	226	219	232
Halton and St. Helens	107	118	123	81	123	130	135	173	143
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	52	81	78	102	116	97	113	119	130
Knowsley	46	40	45	57	58	78	68	111	74
Liverpool	136	145	168	149	194	185	191	304	221
Manchester	139	124	133	132	175	164	154	176	205
North Lancashire	170	197	174	155	241	206	244	281	263
Oldham	67	84	70	88	107	108	130	182	171
Salford	97	77	72	88	69	74	107	120	126
Sefton	108	101	128	128	151	159	174	263	228
Stockport	141	117	134	155	195	191	176	208	228
Tameside and Glossop	93	108	107	114	114	131	125	160	146
Trafford	113	112	121	128	130	150	134	176	138
Warrington	69	60	48	78	93	71	66	72	61
Western Cheshire	87	76	165	175	175	139	152	156	177
Wirral	131	140	124	154	151	144	131	157	166
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA									
Barnsley	75	68	69	79	78	111	105	114	120
Bradford and Airedale	119	132	152	183	213	211	206	231	212
Calderdale	66	76	74	84	102	69	89	114	111
Doncaster	105	100	111	121	140	103	127	132	113
East Riding of Yorkshire	144	147	151	168	183	206	223	243	242
Hull	74	102	88	93	112	107	112	148	116
Kirklees	167	143	130	145	155	172	180	203	171

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of prostate[1], males: England, strategic health authorities and primary care organisations grouped within strategic health authorities[2, 3] 1997 to 2005

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Leeds	277	271	302	318	391	319	384	430	364
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	59	54	62	74	110	119	101	81	89
North Lincolnshire	76	61	82	70	69	90	80	84	73
North Yorkshire and York	291	359	352	485	534	528	549	632	575
Rotherham	66	58	47	84	76	90	62	84	79
Sheffield	204	105	182	320	338	289	264	294	277
Wakefield District	136	145	129	152	153	206	186	206	186
East Midlands SHA									
Bassetlaw	47	34	35	42	43	53	61	38	60
Derby City	82	65	86	107	116	119	124	138	144
Derbyshire County	241	260	305	344	381	418	387	426	430
Leicester City	65	63	84	103	98	111	89	103	95
Leicestershire County and Rutland	195	183	260	329	332	295	330	420	442
Lincolnshire	283	340	350	359	442	453	512	567	612
Northamptonshire	224	273	288	331	386	406	347	365	432
Nottingham City	98	87	88	88	75	61	44	112	98
Nottinghamshire County	218	214	248	216	238	210	206	320	295
West Midlands SHA									
Birmingham East and North	175	145	169	174	257	277	258	293	233
Coventry Teaching	128	135	129	160	172	179	165	194	194
Dudley	93	112	128	121	148	155	202	198	187
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	87	102	87	90	113	124	128	149	112
Herefordshire	82	72	79	103	119	108	103	124	108
North Staffordshire	85	78	79	78	122	87	104	91	104
Sandwell	109	116	166	143	151	187	157	131	132
Shropshire County	158	166	158	187	207	219	214	208	218
Solihull	109	123	119	139	154	181	149	189	155
South Birmingham	138	139	158	167	236	221	222	223	220
South Staffordshire	198	206	274	297	297	346	376	438	393
Stoke on Trent	80	73	74	94	102	93	117	95	104
Telford and Wrekin	54	58	62	57	61	72	81	70	66
Walsall Teaching	90	96	97	HI	147	174	147	169	193
Warwickshire	194	262	265	327	325	333	287	340	308
Wolverhampton City	90	109	104	141	143	157	156	138	174
Worcestershire	215	253	267	338	329	328	408	452	449
East of England SHA									
Bedfordshire	115	135	150	143	194	185	196	209	183
Cambridgeshire	222	183	250	293	330	367	360	374	415
East and North Hertfordshire	192	204	241	278	242	219	243	305	361
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	89	113	137	127	161	152	155	139	109
Luton	45	35	44	56	49	52	47	78	76
Mid Essex	124	151	164	151	193	148	198	141	203
Norfolk	330	351	396	476	506	661	529	610	531
North East Essex	105	120	123	202	222	195	182	172	207
Peterborough	46	60	73	81	81	99	79	85	75
South East Essex	186	162	162	210	232	203	228	212	177
South West Essex	166	135	130	163	205	191	210	171	183
Suffolk	320	280	331	329	372	386	450	437	394
West Essex	113	155	166	199	222	223	205	206	229
West Hertfordshire	203	188	260	249	213	223	165	154	310
London SHA									
Barking and Dagenham	74	75	85	74	79	74	64	73	63
Barnet	92	130	150	129	141	153	131	155	134
Bexley	103	110	108	100	102	113	94	111	79
Brent Teaching	91	112	116	113	116	124	125	133	127
Bromley	80	86	106	101	124	149	131	109	87
Camden	80	68	71	50	78	98	75	58	83

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of prostate[1], males: England, strategic health authorities and primary care organisations grouped within strategic health authorities[2,3] 1997 to 2005

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
City and Hackney Teaching	82	68	69	69	84	88	83	87	74
Croydon	124	105	112	123	151	199	172	182	224
Ealing	105	103	114	98	104	102	134	121	121
Enfield	102	94	107	112	124	130	126	124	112
Greenwich Teaching	82	84	89	108	85	75	77	87	81
Hammersmith and Fulham	36	41	42	53	70	34	72	63	75
Haringey Teaching	74	63	65	51	92	73	80	92	98
Harrow	83	79	91	86	80	71	117	98	128
Havering	109	112	123	136	155	167	157	190	141
Hillingdon	99	118	79	87	80	90	109	131	92
Hounslow	54	49	46	64	64	61	70	61	58
Islington	79	65	61	65	75	56	55	79	67
Kensington and Chelsea	57	59	55	73	68	69	66	75	59
Kingston	72	59	73	75	83	86	85	83	68
Lambeth	90	81	85	102	108	118	116	108	109
Lewisham	91	99	88	120	140	135	93	116	75
Newham	79	70	61	73	59	65	73	75	53
Redbridge	102	109	113	104	123	91	108	94	83
Richmond and Twickenham	71	68	70	64	70	105	78	79	66
Southwark	59	63	102	101	95	94	91	88	80
Sutton and Merton	140	157	147	189	199	170	182	192	148
Tower Hamlets	57	59	65	41	55	58	67	40	41
Waltham Forest	68	82	83	54	64	67	83	52	61
Wandsworth	106	114	109	110	138	156	125	128	112
Westminster	61	84	68	95	97	76	80	90	76
South East Coast SHA									
Brighton and Hove City	127	90	130	143	122	109	100	116	98
East Sussex Downs and Weald	234	208	249	232	237	226	188	223	216
Eastern and Coastal Kent	305	310	333	296	353	369	398	415	402
Hastings and Rother	93	94	92	95	84	132	113	102	97
Medway	99	87	81	82	109	124	104	108	126
Surrey	523	487	528	574	579	540	533	523	522
West Kent	295	310	305	324	416	347	410	382	361
West Sussex	413	412	517	558	569	488	470	563	492
South Central SHA									
Berkshire East	142	148	154	173	234	210	259	275	221
Berkshire West	195	220	259	240	216	216	272	294	221
Buckinghamshire	211	207	267	287	356	346	325	376	292
Hampshire	506	528	574	688	761	852	736	815	733
Isle of Wight NHS	58	47	71	52	101	92	102	103	104
Milton Keynes	62	82	80	98	127	122	109	120	96
Oxfordshire	169	237	247	345	357	367	340	391	314
Portsmouth City Teaching	46	52	72	71	86	80	87	95	86
Southampton City	99	123	103	111	153	109	127	125	101
South West SHA									
Bath and North East Somerset	93	82	88	98	111	144	130	137	124
Bournemouth and Poole	234	217	233	263	280	304	269	311	290
Bristol	141	152	164	141	171	211	213	208	179
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	276	255	314	277	404	383	365	345	356
Devon	434	379	372	429	592	593	637	641	519
Dorset	338	315	315	406	464	510	477	529	423
Gloucestershire	236	253	284	312	363	305	331	383	372
North Somerset	106	113	125	108	141	151	199	182	125
Plymouth Teaching	106	115	94	36	147	109	159	192	143
Somerset	254	261	239	264	362	369	357	395	415
South Gloucestershire	100	84	109	109	109	156	168	145	138
Swindon	55	60	61	75	70	102	72	96	109

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of prostate[1], males: England, strategic health authorities and primary care organisations grouped within strategic health authorities[2, 3] 1997 to 2005

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Torbay	81	67	71	85	88	78	106	113	121
Wiltshire	194	203	217	265	313	353	391	403	368

[1] Malignant neoplasm of prostate is defined as code C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on NHS boundaries as of October 2006.
[3] Each primary care organisation (PCO) is listed under the strategic health authority (SHA) to which it reports. The 152 primary care organisations include 148 primary care trusts (PCTs), and four care organisations (CO's). The PCOs are not all coterminous with SHAs—see Annex C footnotes at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/health_areas.asp

Note:

The numbers of cases for the strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been grouped together at the top of the table because the total cases for each SHA are not always the same as the total cases for the primary care organisations (PCOs) reporting to the SHA. This is because PCOs boundaries are not all coterminous with SHAs boundaries as detailed in footnote 3 of Table 1.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Session

Mr. Baron: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1377-78W, on the parliamentary session, for how many hours the House *(a)* sat, *(b)* considered primary legislation and *(c)* considered delegated legislation in each (i) calendar year and (ii) session between 1984 and 1990. [229339]

Chris Bryant: The information requested is as follows. The figures refer to time spent on the Floor of the House. Information about time spent in Committee could be provided only at disproportionate cost:

	Number of hours the House sat		*Number of hours considering primary legislation on the Floor of the House*		*Number of hours considering delegated legislation on the Floor of the House*	
Session	*Hours*	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*
1983-84	1,914	33	615	7	195	35
1984-85	1,566	17	502	52	156	30
1985-86	1,534	30	495	14	106	1
1986-87	930	26	298	1	60	18
1987-88	1,978	40	685	10	156	35
1988-89	1,581	41	523	6	88	1
1989-90	1,468	28	434	58	104	29
1990-91	1,373	53	395	54	76	5

	Number of hours the House sat		*Number of hours considering primary legislation on the Floor of the House*		*Number of hours considering delegated legislation on the Floor of the House*	
	Hours	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*
1984	1,574	24	514	57	142	23
1985	1,541	27	483	45	144	51
1986	1,504	3	501	35	107	46
1987	1,283	39	377	40	105	42
1988	1,576	13	592	12	102	20
1989	1,587	51	504	41	97	30
1990	1,531	2	467	24	94	40

TREASURY

Building Societies: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what support the Government has provided to building societies during the recent economic difficulties. [228596]

Ian Pearson: The recapitalisation scheme announced on 8 October provides three measures aimed to help not just UK banks (including foreign subsidiaries) but also UK building societies. The extension of the Special Liquidity Scheme will provide short-term liquidity. The recapitalisation through shares (both ordinary and preference) as well as Permanent Interest Bearing Shares (PIBS), will strengthen institutions' resources, allowing them to restructure their finances while maintaining their support for the real economy. The credit guarantee scheme will ensure that the banking system has the necessary funds in the medium term. This scheme, which is now being replicated worldwide, is available for all UK building societies.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228742]

Angela Eagle: Nine new recruits were aged over 55 of which four were aged over 60. This accounts for 2.4 per cent. and 1.0 per cent. of new recruits respectively.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect of any decision to lower fuel duties in Northern Ireland on tax revenues. [229472]

Angela Eagle: Fuel duty is a national tax, whose aim is to fund public services across the United Kingdom while supporting the Government's UK-wide environmental policies. A single fuel duty rate therefore applies for the entire United Kingdom.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual revenue which would be forgone by raising the higher rate of income tax threshold to *(a)* £45,000 and *(b)* £50,000. [229739]

Mr. Timms: The threshold above which the higher rate of income tax applies depends on the level of the personal allowance and the basic rate limit, either of which could be varied to give the thresholds requested for a taxpayer aged under 65.

Table 1 of the Generic Tax Tables 2008-09: "Additional full-year yield/cost from increasing the Basic Rate Limit (BRL) and higher rates of tax in 2008-09" provides information on the cost of a range of increases to the BRL, and is available in the Library of the House. The table excludes any estimates of behavioural response.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were paying the higher rate of income tax in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [229763]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of higher rate taxpayers for the period 1990-91 to 2008-09 can be found in Table 2.1 "Number of individual income taxpayers" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

Interest Rates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking in partnership with the Bank of England to reduce the spread between official interest rates and the three-month London inter-bank offered rate; and if he will make a statement. [228789]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor announced on 8 October a comprehensive package to address sector wide concerns regarding liquidity and solvency and to restore confidence.

Mortgages

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the ratio is between the cost of premises mortgaged by Northern Rock and the average earnings of their mortgagees *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in the North East and *(c)* in each county in the North East. [228678]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 728W.

Taxation: Shipping

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons were for the decision by HM Revenue and Customs to review the guidance on vessels that do not qualify under the seafarers' earnings deduction income tax rules. [226230]

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent representations he has received on seafarers' earnings deduction; and if he will make a statement; [226147]

(2) whether he plans to meet the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss the effects of the reclassification of seafarers' earnings deduction on the recruitment and retention of British seafarers. [226148]

Mr. Timms: The background to the decision by HM Revenue and Customs to revise its guidance on seafarer's earnings deduction (SED) is a decision by the Special Commissioners, an independent appellate body, in the case of Torr and Others *v.* CIR (SpC679). The great majority of seafarers who claim SED will not be affected by this decision.

I am aware of the concerns raised by the Special Commissioners' decision in this case, which centred on whether the vessel on which the appellants performed their duties was a ship or an 'offshore installation' within the meaning of the legislation. The Special Commissioners decided it had been operating as an offshore installation, and refused the appellants' claims to SED.

Broadly speaking, an offshore installation is a vessel that is engaged in exploiting mineral resources and is not mobile while doing so. HMRC has written to tax practitioners about this decision and will discuss the implementation with interested stakeholders before the revised guidance is issued.

Treasury Ministers regularly receive representation on tax issues from a variety of sources and hold discussions and meetings with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues.

Welfare Tax Credits: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Parliamentary Business Unit of the Tax Credit Office plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Edinburgh, West's letter of 14 July 2008 on his constituents Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell. [228689]

Mr. Timms: The Tax Credit Office sent a reply to the hon. Member about his constituents on 10 September 2008 and are sending the hon. Member a copy of their letter.

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Parliamentary Business Unit of the Tax Credit Office plans to respond to the hon. Member for Edinburgh, West's correspondence of 5 August 2008 on his constituent Susan Marshall. [228827]

Mr. Timms: The Tax Credit Office replied to the hon. Member about his constituent on 10 October 2008 and apologises for the delay in doing so.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Arts: Training

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has commissioned research on the extent to which further education institutions are equipping students with the skills needed to help them make a contribution to the creative economy. [227187]

Mr. Simon: The Department has not itself commissioned any research into this issue. In November 2006 DCMS published on their website the findings of an Education and Skills Working Group review of the contribution education and skills make to the creative economy agenda. This was part of their wider creative economy programme, and included the mapping of existing provision.

In addition, a key part of the work of the Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) is to set out the current and future skill needs of employers in their sectors. Sector skills agreements identify the skills priorities and actions that need to be taken by stakeholders across the education and skills system. Government have provided support for the SSCs in carrying out this work. In relation to the creative economy, there are three lead SSCs that have each published sector agreements. These are Creative and Cultural Skills (advertising, crafts, music, performing, heritage, design and arts sectors), Skillset (broadcasting, photo imaging, audio visual and publishing sectors) and Skillfast (fashion and textiles).

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228773]

Mr. Simon: The information is not available in the form requested and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222108]

Mr. Simon: My right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has the use of Dorneywood as an official residence. The Chancellor and the Trustees have made Dorneywood available to other Ministers to use for official engagements.

Since the creation of the Department in July 2007, DIUS has not made use of Dorneywood for official engagements.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Further Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council on delays in education maintenance allowance payments for students in further education colleges. [229016]

Mr. Simon: Ministers from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) hold regular meetings with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which includes discussion of learner support and Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs). The latest meeting took place with the LSC on 21 October 2008.

The LSC is responsible for the delivery of EMA and is providing regular updates on performance. The position as it relates to delivery of EMA is set out in my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Schools and Learners' letter of 8 October to the chair of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee.

Energy Technologies Institute

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how projects funded by the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) are selected; what independent assessment is undertaken of applications for funding; and what evaluation is undertaken of the value for money of ETI funding. [228484]

Mr. Simon: The Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) commissions technology projects that have the capability, when subsequently deployed, to reduce CO_2 emissions and provide reliable, affordable energy. The ETI engages in a wide consultation process to identify the key project areas where ETI funding would make a substantial impact. These project areas are then published on the ETI website, and potential project consortia are invited to respond. Detailed technical proposals are assessed by selection panels of specialists, independent of the proposal. The value for money of a project is decided on the basis of a number of factors including the CO_2 impact and the provision of affordable and reliable energy, in addition to the benefit offered by the project to the wider industry.

Foundation Degrees

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which organisation regulates the quality of foundation degrees. [227428]

Mr. Lammy: Foundation degrees are validated and quality assured by universities and they undergo the same rigorous quality assurance procedures as other higher education qualifications. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) safeguards the standards of higher education qualifications by working with higher education institutions to define academic standards and quality.

Further Education: Learning Disability

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criteria are used to determine whether further education college courses for people with learning difficulties are eligible for public funding; and what contingency arrangements are in place to help people on these courses that have recently lost funding. [229005]

Mr. Simon: Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are a priority group for the Learning and Skills Council.

Learning plans for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are individualised to support the learners' need, maximise their chances of progression and to ensure positive outcomes from their programmes of study. This includes the promotion of employability and independent living skills where appropriate.

Where possible the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) expects programmes for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to include approved qualifications and ensure all learning is accredited.

In cases where low quality provision may have to be replaced, contingency arrangements will be handled by the local LSC office who negotiate alternative provision with local partners to minimise any disruption to the learner.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what Government grants are *(a)* available to and *(b)* planned to be introduced for universities for improving and widening social access to higher education. [227425]

Mr. Lammy: The Government make available some £350 million each year through the widening participation premium in the institutional funding distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council. In addition, by paying the up front costs of tuition fees and providing extra support for students from families on modest incomes, the Government have committed well over £1 billion a year to enable universities to improve and widen social access to higher education. But whatever the level of funding provided by the Government, institutions that draw from a narrow social base will ultimately lose out if they deny themselves access to talented students from all backgrounds. That is the fundamental case for both widening participation and fair access.

Physics: Higher Education

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much the Government have spent on university physics departments since 1997; [227850]

(2) how much research funding the Government have provided to university physics departments in each financial year since 1998. [227852]

Mr. Lammy: Figures for quality related research funding for physics paid by the Higher Education Funding Council for England to HEFCE are shown in the following table:

HEFCE researching funding

	£ million
1998-99	34.9
1999-2000	37.7
2000-01	38.3
2001-02	38.3
2002-03	39.0
2003-04	45.0
2004-05	47.6
2005-06	55.9
2006-07	59.5
2007-08	63.1
2008-09	63.5

Figures for physics teaching cannot be provided. HEFCE pays teaching grant as a block to institutions. It does not make separate payments to departments for teaching.

Research Council expenditure in university physics departments is as follows

	£ million
2001-02	304.26
2002-03	320.61
2003-04	345.96
2004-05	402.61
2005-06	425.10
2006-07	443.12

Comparable data prior to 2001 are not available.

Further information on Research Councils funding for physics is available at

http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/cmsweb/downloads/rcuk/reviews/physics/prrcfda.pdf

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Official Hospitality

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what events have been held at 10 Downing Street since 1 August 2008; [228945]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of invitations sent out for the last 10 events held at 10 Downing Street; [228947]

(3) by what process the themes for events held at 10 Downing Street are chosen; [228948]

(4) whether any hon. or right hon. Members other than Cabinet Ministers have been invited to host or co-host events in 10 Downing Street in the last year; [228949]

(5) what guidance has been issued on the apportionment of costs arising from events held at 10 Downing Street; [228950]

(6) on how many occasions events were held at 10 Downing Street at a cost to the public purse in 2007-08; and what the total cost was of such events; [228951]

(7) if he will place in the Library a copy of the attendance list for each of the last 10 events held at 10 Downing Street; [228946]

(8) from which budget the cost of drinks provided at events held at 10 Downing Street is met. [228952]

The Prime Minister: Information on official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing Street is published by means of an annual list as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

These events consist of official dinners and events for foreign leaders and other dignitaries, receptions for business leaders, community and charity representatives and sportsmen and women. In the past few years, an increased programme of events at Downing street has been introduced in order to give access to as many people as possible, including children and regular receptions for a wide cross-section of the community.

Information for 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 108-110WS.

Cabinet: Meetings

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2229W, on the Cabinet: meetings, if he will notify the hon. Members for North Cornwall, Worthing West, South West Devon and Perth and North Perthshire in advance of the publication date of the costs associated with holding the Cabinet meeting in Birmingham. [229426]

The Prime Minister: Hon. Members will be informed in the usual way.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Prime Minister how much champagne was ordered by the Prime Minister's Office for consumption at events at *(a)* 10 Downing Street and *(b)* Chequers in each of the last six months. [226474]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants in his Office in the last 12 months. [228779]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend (Kevin Brennan) on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 294W.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Office in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226428]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 453W.

Departmental Special Advisers

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list *(a)* his special envoys and *(b)* their (i) professions, (ii) responsibilities as envoys and (iii) dates of starting and ending their roles. [224900]

Mr. Vara: To ask the Prime Minister to whom or which Department the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Energy Issues reports; what his terms of reference are; and from which Department he would draw expenses, should any be incurred. [226844]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he plans to appoint a special representative for Cyprus; and if he will make a statement; [229046]

(2) whether he plans to appoint an envoy for forestry; and if he will make a statement. [229047]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the ministerial appointments press notice issued by my Office. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notices

In addition, my right hon. Friend the Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clwyd), who has served since 2003 as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Human Rights in Iraq, continues to perform her very important role.

They are entitled to claim reasonable travel and subsistence expenses incurred as part of their work. These expenses are paid in accordance with existing departmental guidelines on allowances and subsistence.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the roles of *(a)* Wilf Stevenson and *(b)* Nicola Burdett are in his Office; and if he will make a statement on their remuneration; [229051]

(2) what the role is of Damian McBride in his Office; and if he will make a statement about his remuneration. [229058]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers.

Economic Situation

Ann Winterton: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had with the Leader of the Opposition before the announcement of the bank rescue package; and when those discussions were held. [227658]

The Prime Minister: HM Opposition has been kept informed where appropriate.

Employment: Midwives

Harry Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish a response to the e-petition submitted via his website calling for a jobs guarantee for newly-qualified midwives. [226552]

The Prime Minister: A response has been published on the No 10 website:

http://www.Number10.gov.uk/Page17219

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

Energy: Departmental Responsibilities

Steve Webb: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place responsibility for the energy-saving activities of the market transformation programme with the Department for Energy and Climate Change; and if he will make a statement. [229584]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 32WS, and the accompanying Cabinet Office paper that was placed in the Library. Defra continues to lead on sustainable consumption and production.

EU Trade

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister what consideration he gave to the effect on the Doha world trade talks of the recall of the British Commissioner holding the post of EU Trade Commissioner. [229748]

The Prime Minister: The recent G8 communiqué set out our joint desire to restart the trade talks as quickly as possible. The UK will continue to play a central role within the EU and work with other key players to ensure a successful completion of the Doha round. My right hon. and noble Friend Baroness Ashton of Upholland's appointment as Trade Commissioner was approved by the European Parliament on 22 October 2008 by an overwhelming majority of 538 in favour to 40 against.

Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what consideration he gave to visiting Sderot during his recent visit to Israel; and if he will make a statement. [225605]

The Prime Minister: I visited Israel at the invitation of the Knesset Speaker and Prime Minister Olmert. During my talks, I made clear that the UK Government fully supports the Egyptian brokered ceasefire that has succeeded in greatly reducing the number of rocket attacks targeting Sderot. The Government remain committed to helping all sides in achieving a settlement which provides security for Israel and justice for the Palestinians. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary (David Miliband) met the Mayor of Sderot, Eli Moyall, in March to hear his account of the situation.

Lord Mandelson

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister at what time and on what date Lord Mandelson's appointment as Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform formally commenced. [228540]

The Prime Minister: I refer my right hon. Friend to the Ministerial Appointments press notices released by my Office. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and are also available on the No 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notices.

Ministers: Transport

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will encourage Ministers with business in the House to walk between their departmental buildings in Whitehall and Victoria Street and the Palace of Westminster. [228231]

The Prime Minister: This is a matter for individual Ministers who continue to travel making the most efficient and cost-effective arrangements.

Regional Economic Council of Ministers

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how meetings of the Regional Economic Council of Ministers will be accountable to *(a)* Parliament and *(b)* the public; if he will place copies of the minutes of the meetings on a Government website and in the Library; and whether the Council will be a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; [226531]

(2) whether the *(a)* minutes of meetings of and *(b)* papers discussed at the National Economic Council will be a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2006. [226666]

The Prime Minister: The Regional Economic Council will support my right hon. Friends the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Darling) and the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Lord Mandelson) to carry out their departmental responsibilities. Any freedom of information (FOI) issues will be dealt with by HM Treasury and BERR, which are public authorities within the FOI Act. The Cabinet Office will deal with any FOI requests relating to the National Economic Council.

Any requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act are considered on a case by case basis.

JUSTICE

Complementary Medicine: Channel Islands

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when officials in his Department next intend to meet representatives of the Health Food Manufacturers Association to discuss the import of food supplements and herbal remedies from the Channel Islands; and if he will make a statement on the progress made to date in securing the compliance of the Crown Dependencies with European legislation on food supplements and medicines. [228579]

Mr. Wills: Officials in the Ministry of Justice will next meet representatives from the Health Food Manufacturers Association on 11 November to discuss the import of food supplements and herbal remedies from the Channel Islands and the progress the Crown Dependencies are making with compliance with the Food Supplements Directive.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to meet the learning and development needs of *(a)* youth offender team managers, *(b)* prison governors and *(c)* probation officers in their role as data controllers. [228866]

Mr. Hanson: All activities undertaken by the Wiring Up Youth Justice Programme are in addition to the work these organisations (prison service, probation service and local authorities) already have under way in this area.

The key supplementary activities include:

Analysis of learning requirements and the extent to which these learning needs are currently being met by their local authority.

Input from the Information Commissioner's office at a series of regional events.

Emphasis on the importance of registering as data controllers—this registration gives access to a wide range of support and training materials.

Provision of a range of communications activity on this subject.

Likewise, there is a code of connection to all new YJS information sharing services which also provides material and guidance in terms of information management.

E-Asset IT System

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the projected cost is of implementing fully the E-Asset IT system; [228854]

(2) what the cost to date has been of implementing the E-Asset IT system; [228855]

(3) which *(a)* secure children's homes, secure training centres and youth offender institutions and *(b)* other bodies within his responsibility are currently using fully the E-Asset IT system; [228856]

(4) which secure children's homes, secure training centres and youth offender institutions are not using fully the E-Asset IT system; [228857]

(5) when the E-Asset Sentence Management System will be fully implemented across the secure children's home, secure training centre and youth offender institution estates. [228858]

Mr. Hanson: The E-Asset project started in July 2006. The projected cost of fully implementing the E-Asset system is £8.9 million. This cost can be broken down into £4.8 million for technology development and hosting; and £4.1 million expenditure on business change activities associated with roll-out and implementation across the juvenile secure estate—e.g. training.

The cost to date (since July 2006) of implementing the E-Asset system is £7.49 million. This can be broken down into £4.1 million for technology development and hosting and £3.39 million for implementation (roll-out and training).

All establishments in the secure estate have successfully installed encryption devices in preparation for national roll-out. The rollout of the E-Asset system is currently running to original schedule and budget and on track for completion by April 2009. The intention during 2009-10 is to consolidate system usage through a programme of post implementation review, to ensure it is being used to its maximum potential. All establishments within the juvenile secure estate for England and Wales, whether run by HMPS, local authorities or the private sector are committed to implementing the E-Asset system.

The following establishments are fully implemented as at 20 October 2008:

Private Establishments

Ashfield

HM Prison Service Establishments

HMPS YOI Castington
HMPS YOI Downview
HMPS YOI Eastwood Park
HMPS YOI Feltham
HMPS YOI Foston Hall
HMPS YOI Hindley
HMPS YOI Huntercombe
HMPS YOI Lancaster Farms
HMPS YOI New Hall
HMPS YOI Thorn Cross
HMPS YOI Warren Hill
HMPS YOI Wetherby

Secure Training Centre Establishments

Hassockfield
Medway
Rainsbrook

Local Authority Secure Children's Homes

Aldine House
Aycliffe
Barton Moss
Kyloe House
Sutton Place

These 21 sites represent 65 per cent. of the capacity of the secure estate (in terms of beds). In addition, the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales have full access to the E-Asset system. In future, it is envisaged that aspects of the system may be viewable by Youth Offending Teams to ensure joint Sentence Planning and improved provision for effective community resettlement.

The following custodial establishments are scheduled to implement the E-Asset system by April 2009.

Private Establishments

Parc YOI

HM Prison Service Establishments

HMPS YOI Brinsford
HMPS YOI Stoke Heath
HMPS YOI Werrington

Secure Training Centre Establishments

Oakhill

Local Authority Secure Children's Homes

Atkinson Unit
Clayfields House
East Moor
Hillside
Lincolnshire
Orchard Lodge
Red Bank
Swannick Lodge
Vinney Green

The E-Asset Sentence Management system will be fully rolled out across the juvenile secure estate by April 2009.

Electoral Register: Internet

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost has been of developing the co-ordinated online record of electors to date. [228840]

Mr. Wills: The costs of developing the co-ordinated online record of electors (CORE) to date, excluding staff costs, is £2,781,840 made up as follows:

£1,726,631 to enable local authorities' electoral management systems to output data in an agreed Election Mark Up Language (EML) format

£23,111.38 for the feasibility study on the implementation of national access arrangements

£5,760 for a business impact assessment on data security

£6,338 for 13 workshops involving over 280 electoral administrators in England and Wales and Scottish Assessors

£1.02 million grant in aid for local authorities to support the implementation of the Electoral Registration Data Standards, introduced following a direction from Bridget Prentice made under section 52(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c2) (as amended). The direction requires all Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain to ensure that any electoral registration data held on electronic systems is formatted in compliance with the standards.

It is not possible to quantify the total cost of staff employed on the CORE project since the inception of CORE in 2003 because this information is not available. In January 2008, the CORE project began work on the development and definition of the functionality and services that the CORE Information System will provide, and in April 2008 passed through an OGC Gateway 1 review. Following the recommendation of this review the project team has been expanded to support this work. The total cost of the project team from January 2008 has been £187,259.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans there are to consult on developing the next phases of the co-ordinated online record of electors. [228841]

Mr. Wills: Throughout 2008 we have been holding meetings and workshops with potential users of the system to gather user requirements, identify issues and test assumptions around how the CORE Service and its IT and business systems will operate. This will inform development of a "high level statement of requirements" for the CORE system. It is expected that the high level statement of user requirements will be complete by March 2009. The Government would consult on the detail of any proposed CORE Scheme Order that followed this.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a full cost-benefit analysis of introducing a co-ordinated electoral registration service has been undertaken by the Department. [228842]

Mr. Wills: There are currently no plans to introduce a co-ordinated electoral registration service.

However, the Co-ordinated Online Record of Electors (CORE) project aims to provide a single authoritative source of electoral registration data through assembling copies of local electoral registers into a single national database.

An initial cost-benefit analysis has been undertaken as part of the business case for the project. The cost-benefit analysis will develop as the business case develops, and will inform decisions on the final scope of the CORE scheme and on the development of the project. A final business case, including a final cost-benefit analysis, cannot be settled until the CORE scheme is specified in detail and a procurement strategy is agreed. The CORE project team is currently gathering user requirements to inform development of a "high level statement of requirements", which will inform decisions on scope, procurement and define the detailed specification, and the business case and cost-benefit analysis will be updated in the light of that work.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the status is of the development of the coordinated online record of electors project. [228868]

Mr. Wills: The CORE project is currently moving forward with two parallel strands of work: implementation of electoral registration data standards and the gathering of user requirements for the CORE system and CORE service to service the detailed specification of the system.

In April 2008, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) issued direction under section 52(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c.2)(as amended) with which Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in Great Britain are required to comply by 1 December 2009. The direction requires that any electoral registration data held on electronic systems are formatted in compliance with the standards.

Throughout 2008 officials have been holding meetings and workshops with potential users of the system to gather user requirements, identify issues and test assumptions around how the CORE Service and its IT and business systems will operate. This will inform development of a 'high level statement of requirements'. It is expected that this high level statement of user requirements will be complete by March 2009. That statement will inform decision about the design, scope and build of the CORE system.

We continue to engage with the Electoral Commission as the preferred choice to fulfil the role of the CORE Keeper.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a final decision on the scope and specification of the Co-ordinated Online Register of Electors project has been made. [228869]

Mr. Wills: A final decision has not yet been made on the scope and specification of the CORE service. The CORE project team is currently gathering user requirements to inform development of a "high level statement of requirements": this in turn will inform decisions on scope and the detailed specification. Throughout 2008 we have been holding meetings and workshops with potential users of the system to gather user requirements, identify issues and test assumptions around how the

CORE Service and its IT and business systems will operate. It is expected that the high level statement of user requirements will be complete by March 2009.

Electronic Voting

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there are any plans to introduce e-voting mechanisms before the local and European elections in 2009. [228861]

Mr. Wills: No. The Government do not plan to introduce e-voting for the 2009 European or local elections.

The way forward more generally on e-voting will be informed by the valuable experience gained from earlier pilots, analysis of the responses to the election day consultation, and further development work including the possible further testing of e-voting solutions in non-statutory elections.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there are any plans for further e-voting pilots in the next 12 months. [228862]

Mr. Wills: The Government have no plans for further e-voting pilots in statutory elections at this stage.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget is for work on remote electronic voting over the next two years. [228864]

Mr. Wills: Detailed budgets for future years have not yet been specifically allocated. Further work on remote electronic voting will be funded as necessary from existing budgets agreed for Electoral Modernisation, subject to ministerial and HM Treasury approval. The Government are currently taking stock of the previous work on remote e-voting, including the experience gained in earlier pilots, and the responses to the consultation on election day, to inform the way forward.

Energy Savings Trust

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department provided for the Energy Savings Trust in 2007-08; and how much it is providing for 2008-09. [225997]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA provided £29 million for the Energy Savings Trust in the period 2007-08 and will provide £36.2 million for the 2008-09 period.

HM Courts Service: Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what percentage of HM Courts Service staff are now linked to the LIBRA system; [228848]

(2) when LIBRA will become operational across the whole magistrates court network. [228849]

Bridget Prentice: As at 17 October 2008, 77 per cent. of magistrates courts are linked to the Libra application. This equates to approximately 75 per cent. of our anticipated total user numbers. Libra will be deployed and operational in all magistrates courts in England and Wales by 9 December 2008.

Judiciary: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the implications of the deficit in the Judicial Contributory Pension Fund. [229198]

Mr. Straw: The Judicial Pension Scheme is unfunded, so when benefits fall due for payment they are met from Government revenues. There is no actual pension fund or deficit. However, in any particular year, income from contributions from administering bodies and scheme members is used to offset the costs of paying benefits to pensioners.

Matrimonial Proceedings: Religion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is issued on the validity of *(a)* fatwas and *(b)* other rulings issued by religious authorities in the determination of matrimonial disputes. [228591]

Bridget Prentice: We do not issue any guidance on the validity of fatwas or other rulings by a religious authority because there is no need for such guidance. Shari'a law has no jurisdiction in England and Wales and there is no intention to change this position. Similarly, we do not accommodate any other religious legal system in this country's laws. Any order in a family case is made or approved by a family judge applying English family law.

If, in a family dispute dealing with money or children, the parties to a judgment in a Shari'a council wish to have this recognised by English authorities, they are at liberty to draft a consent order embodying the terms of the agreement and submit it to an English court. This allows English judges to scrutinise it to ensure that it complies with English legal tenets.

The use of religious courts to deal with personal disputes is well established. Any member of a religious community has the option to use religious courts and to agree to abide by their decisions but these decisions are subject to national law and cannot be enforced through the national courts save in certain limited circumstances when the religious court acts as arbitrator within the meaning of the Arbitration Act 1996. Arbitration does not apply to family law and the only decisions which can be enforced are those relating to civil disputes.

Religious courts are always subservient to the established family courts of England and Wales.

Medicine: Guernsey

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any bills originating in Guernsey making provisions for the law relating to medicine have received Royal Assent in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [228575]

Mr. Wills: In the past two years no medicines legislation from Guernsey has been submitted for Royal Assent.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: IT

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of not completing the implementation earlier in 2008 of C-NOMIS to the Probation Service in terms of end to end management of offenders. [228845]

Mr. Hanson: The revised NOMIS Programme, which replaces C-NOMIS, will deliver the same objectives through a strategy that delivers a component based solution rather than a single solution.

Within the National Probation Service (NPS) steps have been taken to replace at risk case management systems in three areas. All probation areas in the longer term will receive a centralised version of a redeveloped case management system known as Delius. This development will enhance the exchange of information between probation areas and provide potential for data sharing with the Prison Service (HMPS).

The two existing Offender Risk Assessment Systems (OASys), used by HMPS and NPS, will be replaced by an improved, centralised system which will enhance sharing of information and support end to end offender management.

Offenders: Deportation

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for which categories of offences those foreign national prisoners who have been released in the UK without being deported in the last five years were originally convicted. [228633]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not available and can be obtained only by cross-referencing records held by the Ministry of Justice and UK Border Agency at disproportionate cost.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to ensure that *(a)* existing and *(b)* potential users of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal have full and accurate information about the changes being made to the system; and what consultation his Department has undertaken with voluntary sector organisations on the changes being made to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal. [229026]

Bridget Prentice: SENDIST judiciary have been concerned to make sure that full and accurate information was provided to users as soon as it was confirmed and available and to engage users in the development of new processes. Two newsletters have been issued to users; the first in July and the second in October. Both contained detailed information on changes to processes and the latter addressed specific issues of concern raised by users. There has also been a service user group made up of representatives from a range of voluntary groups and local education authorities working with the judiciary to ensure the rules, practice directions and case management system are fit for purpose. SENDIST judiciary and members of the service user group will be providing free training on the rules, practice directions and case management system for parent representatives from November.

Information on the draft practice directions was available on the SENDIST website in July and the draft practice directions themselves were also sent out to a wide range of service user groups in early October.

There has been a two-part consultation process on the changes for those jurisdictions, including SENDIST that will move into the new tribunals structure. "Transforming Tribunals" discussed the proposals for the new tribunals structure and ran from 28 November 2007 to 22 February 2008. The "Health, Education and Social Care Chamber Rules" were consulted upon from 29 May until 11 July 2008.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the new arrangements for the Special Education Needs and Disability Panel on access to the tribunal for parents without legal representation. [229027]

Bridget Prentice: The new case management system will ensure that evidence is limited to relevant issues, that witnesses at hearings are restricted to those strictly necessary to the case and are fairly balanced between parties and that adjournments largely avoided. This new process will enable the tribunal to provide more help to unrepresented parents to ensure they provide, and also obtain from the local education authority, the right information at the appropriate stages of the process. Representatives from voluntary sector groups providing advice and assistance to parents have had input into the design of the processes. Many parents successfully appeal without the need for legal representation at hearings and it is not anticipated there will be any increase in the level of need for such legal representation.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential cost implications of the new system for special educational needs and disability tribunals for *(a)* parents, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* voluntary and advocacy organisations. [229028]

Bridget Prentice: Case management may result in some additional upfront cost in some individual cases: whether in the form of paperwork to provide better information or a preliminary hearing, in complex cases, to identify the issues and tell the parties what they need to provide. But the case management system is designed, in the interests of the child, to ensure speedier resolution, shorter final hearings and the avoidance of adjournments by identifying the issues at an early stage and getting the right information to the tribunal at the right time. Overall, it is expected that this will lead to a reduction in time spent and cost for users.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the new case management system for the Special Educational Needs and Disability Panel has been piloted. [229029]

Bridget Prentice: A live case was registered on 3 October with the case management hearing scheduled for mid-December and the final hearing set for a date in February.

With the consent of the parties it is being used as a pilot for the new case management system. Where possible other cases will be used as pilots before the system is wholly implemented. Operation of the new system will be kept under review.

Voting Methods

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department plans to publish the response to the consultation on weekend voting. [228860]

Mr. Wills: The "Election Day: Weekend Voting" consultation ended on 26 September. Analysis of the responses received is now under way. We aim to publish the consultation response as soon as practicable.

Werrington Young Offender Institution

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Independent Monitoring Board Annual Report on HM Young Offender Institution Werrington, what assessment he has made of the availability of places for young offenders from the Potteries area; and if he will make a statement. [228580]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board considers there to be adequate local provision for young people from the Stoke-on-Trent area, who are usually placed in the closest suitable establishments—the young offender institutions at Stoke Heath, Brinsford and Werrington. On occasion, young people from the area may be placed further away, where there are good reasons for doing so, such as the need to access the regime in a secure training centre or secure children's home.

During the period covered by the Independent Monitoring Board's report (1 June 2006 to 31 May 2007), population pressures on the under-18 estate made it necessary to move some young people from the south of England to the Midlands. For that reason Werrington received a number of young people from the south of England. Since the opening of Cookham Wood as a young offender institution earlier this year, such placements have not been necessary and, other than in exceptional circumstances, the Youth Justice Board does not envisage a need for them in the foreseeable future.

Young Offender Institutions: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offender institutions have specialist social workers in permanent posts working in them. [228725]

Mr. Hanson: 12 young people's establishments in the young people's estate and dedicated prison service units for young women have social workers in post.

Young Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people attended more than *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three young offender institutions in each of the last 10 years. [228729]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service does not routinely keep figures for the number of young people attending more than *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three young offender institutions.

Youth Action Plan

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with Ministers from the Department for Children, Schools and Families on the drafting of the Youth Action Plan. [229444]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Crime Action Plan was conceived and developed jointly by the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Home Office. Ministers from all three Departments had regular contact throughout the drafting of the plan and we continue to work together to oversee its implementation.

Youth Justice Management Information System

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish the results of the pilot of the Youth Justice Management Information System. [228846]

Mr. Hanson: The pilot of the Youth Justice Management Information System has successfully concluded. From an early stage the project has been sharing its findings with its stakeholders, including youth offending teams, secure establishments and local criminal justice boards. A final report of the pilot has been distributed to the Youth Justice Management Information System project board. The objectives of the pilot were met and it is seen to be successful and is currently deploying nationally.

The application has over 120 active users. It has already taken over responsibility for the production of daily management reports on the occupancy levels of the secure estate and has delivered significant efficiency benefits.

The project is now in national rollout across the youth justice system. The system will be used by practitioners within the Youth Justice Board, all youth offending teams across England and Wales, and all juvenile secure establishments. The national roll-out is on schedule to conclude in March 2009.

There are no plans to formally publish a report on the pilots.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the estimated cost is of implementing the Connectivity system across the youth justice network; [228850]

(2) what the cost to date has been of developing the Connectivity network; [228851]

(3) when the Connectivity application software and encryption devices will be installed by all youth offender teams; [228852]

(4) which *(a)* youth offender teams and *(b)* non-HM Prison Service secure establishments are (i) using fully and (ii) not using fully Connectivity information sharing in their everyday operation. [228853]

Mr. Hanson: The Connectivity system has taken two years from design through to implementation at a cost of approximately £6 million.

The Connectivity project started in July 2006. The cost to date of developing, maintaining and upgrading the connectivity network as at September 2008 is £5.28 million.

The Connectivity encryption devices are already rolled out across all 157 youth offending teams allowing secure sharing of information. The application software is fully developed and is scheduled to be completely rolled out by April of 2009.

The programme is taking a two-stage approach to secure information sharing between YOTs and secure establishments. The first stage which utilises secure email is now fully complete, involving all 157 YOTs and 35 secure establishments. The second stage, which involves system to system connectivity, has been successfully implemented to YOTs and secure establishment in the Yorkshire and Humber and north-east regions (containing nine YOTs and two secure establishments).

Full implementation of the Connectivity solution (stage two) is scheduled for April 2009.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Education

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid funding in response to the cyclone in Burma has been allocated to education; and if he will make a statement. [227400]

Mr. Michael Foster: Although none of the Department for International Development's (DFID) cyclone relief assistance has been specifically allocated to education, the sector has benefited from our funding allocated to multi-sectoral programmes managed by UN agencies and non-governmental organisations, and from our support to the logistical effort needed to deliver aid supplies.

Early in the cyclone relief effort it became clear that education programmes, such as those being undertaken by UNICEF and Save the Children, were relatively well funded by other donors. DFID therefore chose to focus support on other critical priorities which were less well funded such as food, shelter, health care, clean water and the restoration of people's livelihoods.

Since around 75 per cent. of the cost of education in Burma is met by communities, the restoration of people's income-earning capacity will have an important effect on their ability to educate their children.

DFID is now considering how best to assist recovery in the cyclone affected areas of Burma over the next two years, including possible direct support to the education sector.

DFID's long-term funding to UNICEF and Save the Children for primary and pre-school education across Burma is continuing.

Burma: Storms

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* the European Union and *(b)* the USA on funding for the second year of the response to the cyclone in Burma. [228529]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) participate in frequent meetings with other donors in Rangoon where future spending plans are discussed. These meetings are usually attended by representatives of the USA and the European Commission.

DFID officials in Rangoon recently held discussions with the European Commission on the prospect of setting up a joint fund to support rural livelihoods, which will be critical to many of the most vulnerable households in the cyclone-affected area. DFID staff also undertook a joint review with the European Commission on UNICEF's education programme, which considered options for cyclone recovery funding over the next two years.

DFID's own contribution to cyclone recovery activities for 2009 and 2010 is currently under consideration.

In July, I wrote to a range of like-minded development Ministers urging them to offer generous support to the United Nations appeal for Burma. I have also offered support to the United Nations in its efforts to encourage other donors to contribute more to the Burma appeal. DFID and FCO staff have followed up these initiatives through bilateral contacts with other donors and in international fora.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1339W, on departmental consultants, on what projects expenditure was incurred in each of those years; how much was spent on each such project; and which consultants were employed on each such project. [229321]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1339W, provided the Department for International Development's (DFID) overall expenditure on consultancy contracts for the past five financial years. However, to provide a detailed list of expenditure against individual contracts for each of the last five years would incur disproportionate costs.

A list of all contracts awarded since January 2005 is available on DFID's website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement/contractslet.asp

This includes the original contract value and the name of the consultant engaged to deliver each contract. The information published on our website does not cover lower value contracts issued by DFID departments or overseas offices under delegated authority. To provide details of contracts awarded prior to January 2005 would also incur disproportionate costs.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1339W, on departmental consultants, what his Department's projected spend on consultants is in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [229322]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The use of consultancy is determined by the various divisions within the Department for International Development (DFID), on the basis of a clear business case. Most of DFID's consultancy expenditure is for services to the development programme, rather than for assistance with in-house tasks. The nature of development assistance means that DFID does not produce aggregate forecasts of consultancy expenditure.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy to his Department in 2007-08. [228153]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department for International Development's (DFID) total spend on entertainment within administration cost budgets for 2007-08 was £271,587. This figure includes costs for working breakfasts and lunches, refreshments at meetings and official entertainment. All entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety.

(b) In financial year 2007-08, DFID's main advertising cost was for recruitment and procurement. Advertising for these purposes cost £242,652. Other promotional and advertising includes building knowledge and understanding of development (particularly in schools), working in-country to improve health or other outcomes, and consulting with key stakeholders on development policy and implementation. These costs are integrated in our programme. It is therefore not possible to disaggregate figures from overall budgets without incurring disproportionate cost.

(c) In financial year 2007-08, our communications division had only one contract at a cost of £84,961.59 + VAT.

Developing Countries: Natural Disasters

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps the Government has taken to improve the support given to developing countries immediately following natural disasters; [228313]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to encourage other countries to provide emergency service personnel to developing countries immediately after a natural disaster. [228314]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) gives substantial support to developing countries following natural disasters.

DFID's natural disaster response has been scrutinised and praised in recent years by Parliament's International Development and Public Accounts Committees, by the National Audit Office and by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. We regularly monitor our own humanitarian responses and the partners that we fund, including through field visits to project sites. In the case of major disasters, there is usually an external scrutiny of the overall response. In the case of our Burma response, we are planning to supplement this with a thorough independent evaluation of our own contribution.

DFID works closely with the Governments and other authorities of developing countries affected by natural disasters, both in operational response and through longer term programmes to help those countries with measures to reduce and mitigate disaster risks. Most lives saved in a natural disaster are saved in the immediate few days by family members, local people and local organisations.

We encourage other countries to provide emergency personnel in several ways. We provide both funding and UK experts to the global United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination (UNDAC) network which sends international teams to disaster zones. We also support the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism for disaster response by providing search and rescue capability and we co-operate with a number of fellow European countries to provide combined response through a network called the International Humanitarian Partnership.

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 993W, on overseas aid, what his Department's definition of a low value contract is. [228693]

Mr. Michael Foster: The answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 993W, referred to 'low value contracts' issued under delegated authority by the Department for International Development's (DFID) various UK departments and overseas offices. Our definition of low value contracts are those contracts issued with a financial value below the EU threshold for services (currently set at £90,319). The majority of low value contracts let under delegated authority have a value below £25,000.

Pakistan: Earthquakes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the Government provided to the Government of Pakistan following the 2005 earthquake. [228312]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In the first six months after the October 2005 earthquake the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £53 million for emergency relief to help the 3.5 million people affected. This support included the provision of water and sanitation, shelter, food and helicopter and aeroplane flights to get aid to where it was most needed.

Since then, we have been working closely with the Government of Pakistan on the reconstruction and rehabilitation process with support totalling £49 million to date.

South America: Research

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 995W, on South America: research, what priority themes were identified by the International Development Research Centre for Asia and Latin America; when consideration of the studies will be completed; what the cost of the scoping work is expected to be; and how many training places have been created as a result of this work. [228692]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has co-funded with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) scoping studies related to climate change adaptation research in Asia and Latin America.

In Latin America as a whole, the priority adaptation research themes identified were agriculture, governance, health, social protection, migration, water, financial institutions and disaster risk reduction. Similar themes were identified in the Asia study.

The total cost of the scoping work is expected to be around £600,000, of which DFID will contribute £400,000. DFID's consideration of the scoping work is expected to be complete by the end of March 2009.

No training places were created as a result of the scoping studies.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Armed Forces

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of academies linked to schools associated with military establishments. [227903]

Jim Knight: There are no military organisations sponsoring academies, but a growing number of academies are developing Cadet Forces, sometimes in partnership with other schools.

The Wellington Academy in Wiltshire will be close to a military base, and is working with the military and other partners to enrich the opportunities the Academy offers its students and local community. This also reflects the aspirations of the Academy's sponsor, Wellington College, which itself has military connections.

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many private sponsors of *(a)* existing and *(b)* planned academies have had discussions with his Department about withdrawing from the programme; and if he will make a statement. [227723]

Jim Knight: One sponsor, Amey, has discussed withdrawing from an existing academy. We are not in similar discussions with any other sponsors of open or planned academies.

Since the first academies opened in 2002 one lead sponsor withdrew after signing a funding agreement, but before the academy opened. In this instance a new lead sponsor took over. There have also been two instances of co-sponsors withdrawing from projects after signing the funding agreement. On both occasions the other co-sponsors continued with the projects.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any women have acted as individual sponsors of academy schools. [227749]

Jim Knight: There have not been any women acting as individual sponsors of academies, but there are a number of women who are part of a sponsorship team behind an academy, or who run the operations of sponsoring organisations.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what powers he has to dismiss any academy sponsor; and when those powers have been exercised. [227750]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State may, at any time and in certain circumstances, by notice in writing, terminate the funding agreement with an academy sponsor. These circumstances include insolvency or if the academy trust has passed a resolution for its winding up. The Secretary of State may also terminate the funding agreement if the chief inspector gives a notice to the academy trust stating that in his opinion special measures are required to be taken in relation to the academy. However, he would usually only do so if the academy trust had not made and acted upon a written statement of the action the trust proposes to take, and the period within which it proposes to take such action. In all other circumstances the Secretary of State, or the academy trust, may give not less than seven academy financial years' written notice to terminate the funding agreement.

The Secretary of State may appoint additional governors as he thinks fit if he has given the governors a warning notice in accordance with the articles of association and the governors have failed to comply with the notice to his satisfaction. With a majority of the governors, the Secretary of State would have the power to dismiss the sponsor, through amendments to the memorandum and articles.

The Department carry out rigorous checks to establish the suitability of individuals and organisations to become sponsors of academies. These include checking their financial viability to supply the funds pledged as well as their general suitability.

To date, the Secretary of State has not terminated a funding agreement with an academy trust, or flooded the governing body to dismiss an academy sponsor.

Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many adopted children waited longer than *(a)* 12, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 24, *(d)* 30, *(e)* 36, *(d)* 42 and *(e)* 48 months to be adopted following the decision that adoption was in their best interests in each of the last five years, broken down by ethnicity. [228707]

Beverley Hughes: Information on looked after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 2008 can be found in the following table. Information for earlier years can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The figures shown for the time between the decision that adoption was in the child's best interest and the date of the making of the adoption order are cumulative.

Looked after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 2008 by the time between the decision that adoption was in their best interest and the making of the adoption order. England

Number

		Time between decisions that adoption was in the best interest and adoption						
		Over 12 months	*Over 18 months*	*Over 24 months*	*Over 30 months*	*Over 36 months*	*Over 42 months*	*Over 48 months*
All children looked after/ adopted during the year	3,200	2,400	1,300	720	390	260	150	100
Ethnic origin								
White	2,600	1,900	1,000	550	290	190	110	80
Mixed	330	290	170	110	60	40	20	10
Asian or British Asian	60	40	20	10	10	—		
Black or Black British	110	100	80	40	30	30	20	10
Other ethnic groups	30	20	10	10	10	—	—	

Source:
SSDA903 return on children looked after

Once the child has been placed for adoption with approved prospective adopters it is for them to decide when to apply to the court for an adoption order. However, the child has to live with the prospective adopters for 10 weeks preceding the application.

After School Clubs

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* after-school facilities and *(b)* holiday clubs in each of the last 10 years. [228661]

Beverley Hughes: The Government have made a commitment that by 2010 all schools will be providing access to a core range of extended services, including a varied menu of activities from 8 am to 6 pm as well as provision during the school holidays. There are currently over 14,000 schools (65 per cent.) providing extended services.

In order to support delivery of extended schools, significant funding has been made available. £840 million was made available between 2003 to 2008 and an additional £1.3 billion has been committed for the period 2008 to 2011.

It is for each local authority, in consultation with schools and other children's services partners, to make decisions on how best to use this funding to support schools develop extended services, based on local needs. The Department centrally does not hold a breakdown of how much funding has been spent on particular elements of the core offer, including after-school facilities and holiday clubs.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department is planning to spend on the Building Schools for the Future programme in each year from 2011-12 to 2021-22; and if he will make a statement. [229464]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to the continued delivery of the Building Schools for the Future programme, as demonstrated by the recent consultation on future roll-out and our desire to bring new authorities into the programme as quickly as is practicable. However, planned spending on the programme from 2011-12 will be subject to future spending decisions.

Children: Asylum

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department gives to local authorities on the placement of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who are suspected to be victims of human trafficking. [228709]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government recognise the particular vulnerability of unaccompanied asylum seeking children who may have been trafficked into the UK. This is why in December 2007 we issued "Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked", to supplement the statutory guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children". Paragraphs 7.55 to 7.64 of this further guidance provides information for local authorities about the steps they will need to take to ensure that any potentially trafficked child that they look after is effectively safeguarded.

Crayford Academy

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on plans for the proposed Crayford Academy. [227823]

Jim Knight: The Crayford Academy is five months into the feasibility stage.

The funding agreement is due to be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval in March 2009. If the Secretary of State approves the funds to move into the implementation stage, the planned opening will be in temporary accommodation in September 2009. The final outline business case approval is planned for March 2009 which will allow the new building to be occupied by September 2010.

The LA statutory school closure has commenced and is due to be complete by 2 February 2009. The Academy's consultation commenced on 1 October and is due to complete by January 2009.

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many agencies were sponsored by his Department or its predecessors in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228508]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The "Next Steps Report 1997" (Cm3889) provides information on all Executive agencies as at 31 December 1997. Copies are available from the Library of the House. The most up-to-date list of Executive agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication "The List of Ministerial Responsibilities". The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228415]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children Schools and Families has spent the following amounts upgrading its IT in each of the last three full financial years.

Financial year	*£*
2007-08	£5,713,906
2006-07	£7,208,065
2005-06	£9,191,897

The Department has also spent £1,673,073 in the current financial year (2008-09) to date.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which magazines and other publications his Department distributes to *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools on a regular basis. [228793]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department produces and distributes to *(a)* primary schools a copy of "Primary Teachers" magazine. It also produces and distributes to *(b)* secondary schools a copy of "Secondary Teachers" magazine.

The Department also produces "Governors" magazine and distributes this to both primary and secondary schools.

In addition, 10 issues of "Spectrum" are produced a year and distributed to all head teachers and chairs of governors. "Spectrum" provides schools with a summary of all the latest resources, publications, guidance and regulations.

Foster Care: Grandparents

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were fostered by a grandparent in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority. [228713]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally by the Department.

However, table A3, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008' shows the number of children looked after by English local authorities, who were placed with a foster carer who was either a relative or friend at 31 March for each year from 2004 to 2008. The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

and table A3 can be found within the first set of Excel tables on the website.

Further Education

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what surveys his Department has conducted to estimate the proportion of the school student population which wishes to stay on in full-time education beyond the age of 16 years; and what the findings were. [227898]

Jim Knight: There are a number of surveys which have been conducted by the Department which have asked young people about their intentions after age 16:

Longitudinal Study of Young People in England

The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) is a longitudinal (panel) study of young people. In the first interview or 'wave' of LSYPE (Spring 2004), sample members were asked at age 13/14 what their intentions were after Year 11. The results show that at age 13/14 78 per cent. of LSYPE respondents intended to stay on in full-time education either at the school they were currently attending or somewhere else. LSYPE did not ask about intentions to other learning routes.

Tellus2 and Tellus3

Tellus2 and Tellus3 were national online surveys of pupils in years 6, 8 and 10, carried out to gather the views of children and young people on topics relating to the five Every Child Matters outcomes. The relevant question asked: What do you hope to do when you leave school? (Years 8 and 10 only). The results are as follows:

Percentage

	Get a job at 16	*Study and get a job at 18*	*Study and go to university*	*Something else*	*Don't know*
Tellus2 average nationally	16	17	50	7	10
Tellus3 average nationally	13	19	54	6	9

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Pilots

Various surveys of 21,500 young people who were in their final year of compulsory education in 1999 or 2000 were carried out for the evaluation of the EMA pilots. 78 per cent. wanted to stay in full-time education after age 16, 18 per cent. wanted to enter work or training and 4 per cent. were undecided or wanted something else.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils stayed in education in 2008 after the age of 16 having attended a secondary school *(a)* with and *(b)* without a sixth form. [228682]

Jim Knight: The official measure of post-16 participation cannot be disaggregated by the type of secondary school previously attended. However, using matched administrative data, we can estimate post-16 participation rates by characteristics of the school attended at age 15, including whether or not that school had a sixth form. These estimates, shown in the following table, exclude post-16 participation in independent schools.

Participation of 16-year-olds in education and training by whether secondary school had a sixth form, mainstream maintained schools in England, 2006/07

Percentage

	No sixth form	*Sixth form*	*All mainstream maintained schools*[1]
Full-time education	73	79	77
Part-time education	4	3	3
Work-based learning (WBL)	8	6	7
Total education and WBL	85	88	87

[1] Excludes special schools, pupil referral units and independent schools.

Source:

Matched Administrative Data, 19 in 2009 cohort.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 590-91W, on the general certificate of secondary education, what estimate he has made of the cost of providing the requested information in full; [227379]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 591W, on languages: general certificate of secondary education; what estimate he has made of the cost of providing the requested information. [227386]

Jim Knight: It was estimated that the cost of answering the closely related questions would be over £4,000.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils who did not gain a single grade C or above at GCSE in 2008 were resident in the 50 per cent. most deprived areas of the country. [228836]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department publishes the following GCSE attainment indicators by deprivation of residence in the National Pupil Database (NPD) Statistical First Release.

> Proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving five or more A*-C grades;
>
> Proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving five or more A*-C grades including English and Maths; and
>
> Proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving any passes.

2008 information will be published in December.

Gifted Children: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the budget of the Young Gifted and Talented programme is in 2008-09; [228795]

(2) what the value is of the contract awarded to CfBT to deliver the Young Gifted and Talented Programme. [228797]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The cost of the contract with CfBT for the Young Gifted and Talented (YG and T) programme is commercial in confidence. The Department has historically spent some £10 million to £20 million annually on the full national programme for gifted and talented education, of which YG and T now forms a significant part.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the number of people from low-income backgrounds who study at university. [227615]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

This Government remain totally committed to widening participation in higher education (HE), for those from poorer or other backgrounds which are currently under-represented. And we are making encouraging progress—in the 2002/03 academic year, 27.9 per cent. of young full-time first degree entrants to HE came from lower socio-economic classes. By the 2006/07 academic year, this had risen to 29.8 per cent.—an increase of 1.9 per cent. Alongside this, in the 2002/03 academic year, 44.1 per cent. of 18 to 20-year-olds from higher socio-economic classes participated in HE, compared with 17.5 per cent. of those from lower socio-economic classes—a gap of 26.5 per cent. By 2006/07, the participation rate of higher socio-economic classes had fallen to 39.5 per cent. and that of lower socio-economic classes had risen to 19.0 per cent.—reducing the gap by six percentage points to 20.5 per cent.

There is a range of current and emerging interventions designed to widen participation in HE, including:

> (a) The Aimhigher programme, a national outreach programme which seeks to widen participation in HE through local partnerships of universities, colleges and schools which co-design and deliver activities to raise attainment, aspiration and application levels of young people from backgrounds currently under-represented in HE;
>
> (b) Aimhigher Associates—is a new mentoring scheme which will be piloted in late 2008 and rolled out nationally in 2009. Associates will be HE students who will provide targeted support for and sharing of personal experience with young people through key transitions in their school and/or college careers, with a view to enabling their successful application to HE;
>
> (c) the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Widening Participation Allocation, which supports the additional costs of recruiting and retaining students from non-traditional backgrounds; and
>
> (d) HEI/school links—that are both structural and sustained. DIUS is promoting a range of ways in which universities can get involved with schools, including sponsoring academies and trusts.

National Assessment Agency: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the National Assessment Agency budget has been in each year since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [228637]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The National Assessment Agency (NAA) was launched in April 2004 to safeguard and modernise the delivery of exams, tests and assessment. It is a division of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). Its responsibilities have included delivery of national curriculum assessments and the exams modernisation programme. NAA's annual expenditure in each financial year since establishment has been:

	£
2004-05	42,959,562
2005-06	81,842,760
2006-07	87,657,671
2007-08	87,932,756

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when Lord Sutherland's report on Key Stage Testing in 2008 will be published; and if he will make a statement; [228582]

(2) when Ofqual received Lord Sutherland's interim report into the management of the Key Stage tests in 2008; and if he will publish the interim report. [228822]

Jim Knight: Lord Sutherland is conducting an inquiry into the problems that occurred in 2008 with the delivery of national curriculum tests. Lord Sutherland met with the Ofqual Committee on 16 October to provide an update on the progress of his inquiry. Lord Sutherland has indicated that he does not intend to publish an interim report. The inquiry anticipates presenting the final recommendations to Ofqual and the Secretary of State before the end of the year and this report will be published.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when Ministers or officials from his Department met *(a)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, *(b)* the National Assessment Agency and *(c)* ETS to discuss the 2008 key stage tests between December 2007 and July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [228586]

Jim Knight: Neither I nor my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State have met ETS. We do, however, regularly meet with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, of which the National Assessment Agency is a division. Recent meetings have included discussions on the administration and marking of key stage tests in 2008, which are now the subject of an independent inquiry being chaired by Lord Sutherland.

DCSF officials also have regular meetings with QCA and NAA and have attended some joint meetings with NAA and ETS.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) for what reasons ETS was required to undertake face to face training for markers of the 2008 key stage tests, rather than online marking training; when this decision was made; and if he will make a statement; [228588]

(2) what requests were made by ETS for changes in the key stage 2 and 3 marking contract for the 2008 tests; which of these requests were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused; how long it took for a decision to be made in each case; and if he will make a statement; [228585]

(3) how many changes to the key stage 2 and 3 contract with ETS were made by *(a)* the National Assessment Agency and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority between September 2007 and July 2008; what the content was of each such change; when the changes were notified; and if he will make a statement; [228587]

(4) what warnings were given by ETS to *(a)* the National Assessment Agency and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority about risks in delivering the 2008 key stage tests in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008; when these were made; and if he will make a statement; [228584]

(5) when ETS asked the National Assessment Agency and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to terminate its contract for the key stage tests; and if he will make a statement. [228583]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of National Curriculum tests. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests and managed the delivery contract with ETS Europe, on QCA's behalf.

The contract awarded to ETS required face-to-face training of markers to continue as usual. During the procurement process suppliers were encouraged to offer improvements or innovations to improve marking quality.

Schedule 1 of the contract required ETS to pilot and seek approval for innovations that did not replicate the existing process at the effective date of the contract. It was agreed that ETS would plan and conduct a pilot to ensure suitability and robustness.

The NAA agreed to accept three of the proposed marking improvements, standardisation, benchmarking and online mark entry. NAA rejected mandatory online training for experienced maths and science markers, but allowed it to be used on an opt-in basis. The NAA believed online marker training could make an important contribution in later cycles. However, the marker ratings made it clear that the ETS online marker training as trialled would cause significant dissatisfaction and attrition during a critical period of the delivery cycle.

ETS Europe first alerted the NAA concerning a potential failure in delivering the 2008 National Curriculum test results in late June 2008. The first "without prejudice" discussion at which ETS Europe indicated it may be interested in terminating the contract, occurred on 8 July 2008.

The following table outlines the changes that were suggested for the 2008 test cycle.

Change control summary—2008 National Curriculum test cycle

Description	*Date*	*Initiated by*	*Acceptance*
Statutory collection of reasons for KS3 absence	2 April 2007	DCSF	NAA carried out this work
Removal of year 7 progress tests from contract scope	2 April 2007	DCSF	Accepted by NAA and ETS
Provision of component level reviews for KS2 and KS3 English	2 April 2007	DCSF	NAA carried out this work
Provision of KS2 English item level results data	2 April 2007	DCSF	Rejected by NAA and ETS
Removal of KS3 ICT results data from contract scope	2 April 2007	DCSF	Accepted by NAA and ETS
Transportation security (request to remove the contractual requirement to 'double man' vehicles carrying bulk test material)	15 November 2007	ETS	Rejected by NAA
Fire security (request to remove the contractual requirement to install sprinkler systems in central distribution warehouse)	15 November 2007	ETS	Accepted by NAA
Additional CCTV cameras to improve security of central distribution warehouse)	1 February 2008	NAA	Accepted by ETS
Cost of providing face-to-face marker training for experienced Maths and Science markers following rejection of online training	12 February 2008	ETS	Rejected by NAA
Cost of 'additional' markers which ETS intended to recruit above 10,000 estimate	29 February 2008	ETS	Rejected by NAA
Publication of schools guide which ETS claim was not included in the definitive 'book of work'	29 February 2008	ETS	Rejected by NAA
Cost of 'additional' schools which ETS claimed were not specified in the contract	29 February 2008	ETS	Rejected by NAA
Cost of marking pilot which ETS claimed was more extensive than originally scoped	29 February 2008	ETS	Rejected by NAA
Cost of paying 'additional' fees to markers which were above those paid for 2007	29 February 2008	ETS	Rejected by NAA
Additional fees paid to KS2 and KS3 Maths markers to recognise high level of marks data entry required by this subject	27 May 2008	ETS	Accepted by NAA (NAA met the cost of this change)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons there was not a full-scale logistics pilot for the 2008 key stage 2 and 3 tests; and if he will make a statement. [228589]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of national curriculum tests. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests and managed the delivery contract with ETS Europe on QCA's behalf.

ETS Europe did not propose a full-scale logistics pilot to the NAA for the 2008 KS2 and KS3 tests. In July 2007, ETS proposed a pilot involving a maximum of 100 schools. The final pilot proposal presented by ETS in December 2007 only required the involvement of 50 schools.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what options his Department has considered for the publication of key stage 2 test results for schools taking the single level tests; and if he will make a statement. [228638]

Jim Knight: All schools' end of key stage 2 test results will continue to be published in the achievement and attainment tables.

Schools whose pupils took single level tests in December 2007 and June 2008 have been notified of the outcome.

The Making Good Progress pilot is being externally evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers. Analysis of the first two rounds of single level tests will be included as part of their interim report on the first year of the pilot; to be published later this year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the minutes of the meeting between the National Assessment Agency and Ofqual on 21 February 2008; and if he will make a statement. [228821]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold the minutes of meetings which take place between the National Assessment Agency (NAA) and the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual). The hon. Member may wish to approach the NAA and/or Ofqual directly for this information.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 673-87, on national curriculum tests, for what reasons his Department has decided not to move to internal marking of key stage 2 tests with external moderation; and if he will make a statement. [228978]

Jim Knight: Key stage 2 results are a robust and consistent source of information for parents at a crucial transition point for their child as they move on to secondary school. The tests provide a view of the progress of every child, allowing teachers to best meet the needs of each child. The tests are also important in providing a suitable level of accountability for the public to hold national and local government and governing bodies to account on the performance of schools. It is appropriate that tests used for such purposes should be externally marked.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many companies have tendered to provide the 2009 Key Stage 2 standard assessment tests; and if he will make a statement. [229002]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of national curriculum tests. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests on QCA's behalf, including the 2009 procurement process.

NAA advise that the Invitation to Tender for the 2009 procurement process has not yet ended. Information about the number of companies tendering for the work will not be released until a supplier has been appointed.

Pre-school Education

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which local authorities are involved in the pilot schemes to extend the pre-school education entitlement to two-year-olds; and if he will make a statement; [228676]

(2) what estimate he has made of the take-up of the pre-school education entitlement among two-year-olds in each local authority participating in a pilot scheme; and if he will make a statement. [228738]

Beverley Hughes: The pilot is currently operating in 32 local authorities and has benefited approximately 13,500 children. From January 2009 the extended pilot will operate in a further 31 local authorities and we anticipate that over a further 20,000 children will benefit. The full list of 63 local authorities is:

Barking and Dagenham
Barnsley
Birmingham
Blackburn
Blackpool
Bradford
Brent
Bristol
Camden
Cornwall
Derbyshire
Devon
Doncaster
Dudley
Durham
Ealing
Enfield
Essex
Gloucestershire
Greenwich
Hackney
Haringey
Hartlepool
Hertfordshire
Hounslow
Hull
Islington
Kent
Knowsley
Lambeth
Lancashire
Leeds
Leicestershire
Lewisham
Liverpool
Luton
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Newcastle
Newham
Norfolk
North Somerset
Nottingham
Peterborough
Portsmouth
Rochdale
Rotherham
Salford
Sandwell
Sheffield
Slough
South Tyneside
Southwark
Stoke
Sunderland
Telford and Wrekin
Tower Hamlets
Wakefield
Waltham Forest
Westminster
Worcestershire
Wolverhampton
York.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1133W, on pre-school education, what the timescale is for the pilots underway in 63 local authorities. [229764]

Beverley Hughes: 32 local authorities have been engaged in delivering a pilot, free early education entitlement for two-year-olds, since 2006. We have invited those local authorities, to participate in the extended scheme from 2008. A further 31 local authorities will commence delivery of the extended scheme in phases from January 2009. The extended scheme will run until April 2011.

Pre-school Education: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* untrained staff and *(b)* staff trained to level (i) one, (ii) two and (iii) three working in (A) private, voluntary and independent sector and (B) maintained sector nurseries; [229699]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people with *(a)* a Cache level three, *(b)* a BTEC national diploma and *(c)* an NVQ level three in childcare in each year since 1997. [229700]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on staff qualifications that are relevant to working with children and young people. The qualifications are grouped together in the levels that they have been accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Table 1 shows the number of paid staff in full day care providers by the highest level of qualification held.

Table 1: Number of paid staff at full day care providers by the highest level of qualification held, 2007[1]

	Full day care providers: type of ownership				
Highest level of qualification held	*Private number*	*Voluntary number*	*Local authority number*	*School/college number*	*Other number*
Level 1	650	450	60	90	0
Level 2	16,600	5,100	700	950	500
Level 3	65,900	14,000	5,900	5,500	2,400
Level 4 or above	11,700	2,700	1,300	1,300	350
No relevant qualification	9,300	3,000	700	700	250

[1] The figures within this table have been rounded.

DCSF does not hold data on the certificates issued by specific awarding bodies.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the additional number of staff who will have to enter the childcare sector to extend the free entitlement *(a)* from 12 and a half to 15 hours and *(b)* to all two year olds. [229702]

Beverley Hughes: Each local authority has a duty to secure the free early education entitlement in their area including the need to ensure that there are providers with appropriate staffing to enable them to do so. More details of the extension of the free early education entitlement for two-year-olds will be available in the child care strategy announced in June and to be published by the end of this year.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils of primary school age in maintained schools are in classes of *(a)* fewer than 20, *(b)* 20 to 24, *(c)* 25 to 28, *(d)* 29 to 30, *(e)* 31 to 35, *(f)* 36 to 40 and *(g)* more than 40 pupils; and if he will make a statement. [229021]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is given in the table.

Maintained primary schools[1] *Classes taught by one teacher*[2] *—as at January 2008—England*

	Classes taught by one teacher					
	Key Stage 1 classes[3]		*Key Stage 2 classes*		*Classes in maintained primary schools*	
Classes of size:	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils*
Less than 20 pupils	84,540	6.2	68,530	3.6	203,760	5.5
20 to 24 pupils	273,590	20.0	284,630	14.8	649,420	17.5
25 to 28 pupils	410,580	30.0	570,220	29.6	1,110,010	29.9
29 to 30 pupils	574,390	42.0	598,890	31.1	1,246,740	33.6
31 to 35 pupils	24,240	1.8	387,220	20.1	454,070	12.3
36 to 40 pupils	380	0.0	18,200	0.9	34,110	0.9
Greater than 40 pupils	140	0.0	840	0.0	8,500	0.2
Total	1,367,860	100.0	1,928,530	100.0	3,706,620	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Classes as taught during a single selected period on the day of the Census in January.

[3] Includes Reception classes.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Pupil Referral Units: Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupil referral units do not have provision for pupils with special educational needs, broken down by local authority. [229626]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: According to my Department's record of information supplied by local authorities at the time of registration, 366 pupil referral units catered for pupils with special educational needs and 184 pupil referral units did not indicate whether they catered for pupils with special educational needs. However, pupils with special educational needs are likely to be attending all types of school and other provision, so there are likely to be children with special educational needs in pupil referral units in addition to the 366.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent per head of the population on education in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in 2007-08. [228110]

Jim Knight: The latest figures available are shown in the following table (2006-07). Figures for 2007-08 are still being collected and validated by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Combined local authority and school based expenditure per pupil[1]: 2006-07: Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities in England as at 15 October 2008[2]

	Total combined LEA and school based expenditure1 (£ per pupil)
England	4,710
Predominantly urban local authorities[2]	4,730
Predominantly rural local authorities[2]	4,540

[1] Combined local authority and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in local authority maintained establishments and pupils educated by the authority other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). Certain elements of central local authority expenditure cannot be attributed to a particular phase of education and consequently a sector breakdown is not available. Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under fives funded by the authority and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and any other local authority maintained pupils. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[2] The classification of local authorities into those which are predominately urban and predominately rural is based upon The Rural and Urban Area Classification (2004) sponsored by the Countryside Agency (CA), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Welsh Assembly Government. Predominantly rural local authorities are classified as those which consist of more than 50 per cent. rural output areas.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average financial allocation per pupil was in *(a)* Devon local authority area and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [228871]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil aged 3-19 in real terms for Devon local authority and the England average for years 2004-05 to 2005-06 are as follows:

	2004-05	2005-06
Devon	3,960	4,160
England	4,270	4,480

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2004-05 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions), whereas DSG covers only the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of "education" funding in that year.

The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19 and are in real terms.

	DSG baseline plus grants	DSG plus grants		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Devon	3,840	3,980	4,120	4,150
England	4,230	4,370	4,530	4,560

Note:

Price Base: Real terms at 2007-08 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 30 September 2008.

Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the future of BTEC qualifications. [229025]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In our 14-19 Qualifications Strategy we set out our criteria for public funding. We will in future direct funding to one of the four national routes: GCSE/A level; Diplomas; Apprenticeship and FLT.

BTECs are currently available within Diplomas; Apprenticeships and FLT and will therefore continue to be eligible for public funding. We have stated our intention to reduce the number of qualifications taken as standalones including the BTEC. There will be a gradual and managed transition to the new 14-19 offer as the national suites become widely available, with the primary consideration being meeting the needs of learners.

This will not impact on the availability of standalone vocational qualifications for adults.

Schools: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people who were entered for a *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A Level did not sit one or more exams in each of the last five years. [224796]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold the information required to answer this question.

Schools: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teacher's working time was spent (i) completing Government-originated forms and (ii) classroom teaching in the most recent period for which figures are available. [227897]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold any information about the time teachers spend completing Government-originated forms.

The available information on the average number of hours per week spent by teachers about different activities is published by the Office of Manpower Economics (OME) and summarised in the following table:

Average time worked per week by full-time classroom teachers, total hours and proportions spent on grouped activities (March 2008)

		Percentage
	Primary classroom teachers	*Secondary classroom teachers*
Teaching	33	38
PPA	33	30
Non-teaching pupil/ parent contact	11	14
School/staff management	7	6
General Admin. Support	9	6
Individual/professional activity	6	5
Other	1	1
Total time on all working activities (hours)	52.2	49.9

These figures are based upon a sample survey of around 2,000 teachers in England and Wales during a single week in March 2008. The full report "Teachers' Workloads Diary Survey" was published in August 2008 and can be found on the OME website at:

http://www.ome.uk.com/review.cfm?body=7

Schools: Land

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much land has been bought for educational use in England in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last 10 years. [229055]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We do not hold information on land that has been bought for educational use in England by local authorities or other educational organisations.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how educational land is valued for sale. [229056]

Jim Knight: Any application submitted for approval to sell a school playing field, under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, must include a valuation for the land in question. This valuation must be provided by the district valuer or an independent professionally-qualified valuer. It is expected that schools or local authorities should only sell publicly owned land for best value.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the area of educational land is in England; and what the average amount of land per school is. [229057]

Jim Knight: Data on areas of school playing fields and external spaces were supplied to the Department by local education authorities in 2001 and 2003. However, the completeness and quality of data is insufficient to accurately assess the area of land in England that is occupied by schools for educational purposes, or to determine the average amount of land per school.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what restrictions are in place for the selling of educational land for residential use. [229074]

Jim Knight: Educational land generally comprises the school buildings and the playing fields. The Secretary of State's consent is not normally needed to sell school buildings. Before any school or local authority in England can sell a school playing field or any part of a school playing field, they must obtain the Secretary of State's consent, under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. In the case of school buildings or playing field land which has been used in the last eight years for a community school, the local authority must seek confirmation from the Secretary of State that the land is not required for the purposes of an academy.

Any subsequent use of land is a matter for the local planning authority.

Schools: Sport

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in Peterborough offer competitive sports as part of their curriculum. [229454]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All schools must provide competitive games activities, as this is a compulsory part of the physical education national curriculum.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many national challenge schools will be entering national challenge trusts. [224871]

Jim Knight: We are continuing to talk to all local authorities with national challenge schools as they develop plans for school improvement, including national challenge trusts, and will look to develop national challenge trusts where that is the most appropriate way to meet schools' needs.

Schools: Stoke on Trent

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effects on educational standards in Stoke-on-Trent over the next 10 years of the closure of Longton High School and Trentham High School. [228647]

Jim Knight: DCSF officials have asked the council to set out its vision for transforming secondary education through a 'Strategy for Change' for BSF. This strategy must explain how the council proposes to raise secondary school standards and aspirations over the next 10 years, and address falling pupil numbers in the city. It will be assessed by the Department when formally submitted. The proposed plans for schools in Stoke are part of a strategic approach and should not be viewed in isolation.

Secondary Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in maintained schools in September have begun working towards *(a)* the Cambridge Pre-U examination and *(b)* the International Baccalaureate. [227962]

Jim Knight: The Department does not currently hold this information.

Information on the number of students entered for the Cambridge Pre-U exam and the International Baccalaureate in the 2008/09 academic year will be collected in the Autumn School Census (currently in progress). Initial results from the census will be available from January 2009.

Secondary Education: Finance

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average amount of funding per student was in comprehensive secondary schools of *(a)* fewer than 100, *(b)* 100 to 199, *(c)* 200 to 299, *(d)* 300 to 399, *(e)* 400 to 499, *(f)* 500 to 599, *(g)* 600 to 699 and *(h)* 700 and above in (i) rural and (ii) non rural areas in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [227306]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding that local authority maintained secondary schools in England receive (this excludes Academies) is a matter for individual local authorities to decide locally through their own local funding formulae (subject to satisfying the minimum funding guarantee for schools). Consequently, the amount of money allocated to each secondary school in England depends very much on the individual local authorities' own policy for funding their schools.

The following table shows the cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 14 October 2008.

Children, Schools and Families Financial Data Collection (BUDGET) 2008-09—total budget share plus revenue grants[1,2] per pupil[3] allocated[2] to local authority maintained secondary schools[4,5] at the start of the 2008-09 financial year: cash terms figures[6] as reported by local authorities as at 14 October 2008

	Urban[5] local authority maintained secondary schools[4]					
	Secondary schools (exc. middle deemed)		*Middle deemed secondary schools*		*All secondary schools (inc. middle deemed)*	
	Number of schools	*Average budget share plus grants per pupil (£ per pupil)[1,2,3,6]*	*Number of schools*	*Average budget share plus grants per pupil (£ per pupil)[1,2,3,6]*	*Number of schools*	*Average budget share plus grants per pupil (£ per pupil)[1,2,3,6]*
school size < 100 pupils	0	—	0	—	0	—
100 pupils <= School size < 200 pupils	3	7,830	3	4,570	6	6,180
200 pupils <= School size < 300 pupils	11	6,550	13	4,290	24	5,310
300 pupils <= School size < 400 pupils	28	5,930	34	3,840	62	4,780
400 pupils <= School size < 500 pupils	65	5,710	41	3,600	106	4,900
500 pupils <= School size < 600 pupils	98	5,440	28	3,430	126	5,000
600 pupils <= School size < 700 pupils	164	5,280	17	3,510	181	5,110
school size >= 700 pupils	2,162	4,660	11	4,200	2,173	4,660
Total (all school sizes)	2,531	4,720	147	3,710	2,678	4,690

	Rural[5] local authority maintained secondary schools[4]					
	Secondary schools (exc. middle deemed)		*Middle deemed secondary schools*		*All secondary schools (inc. middle deemed)*	
	Number of schools	*Average budget share plus grants per pupil (£ per pupil)[1,2,3,6]*	*Number of schools*	*Average budget share plus grants per pupil (£ per pupil)[1,2,3,6]*	*Number of schools*	*Average budget share plus grants per pupil (£ per pupil)[1,2,3,6]*
school size < 100 pupils	0	—	1	5,340	1	5,340
100 pupils <= School size < 200 pupils	5	6,890	8	4,850	13	5,710
200 pupils <= School size < 300 pupils	6	5,980	17	4,050	23	4,550
300 pupils <= School size < 400 pupils	16	5,150	19	3,660	35	4,350
400 pupils <= School size < 500 pupils	22	4,900	27	3,540	49	4,160
500 pupils <= School size < 600 pupils	40	4,560	6	3,420	46	4,420
600 pupils <= School size < 700 pupils	50	4,400	4	3,350	54	4,320
school size >= 700 pupils	323	4,280	3	3,670	326	4,280

	Rural[5] local authority maintained secondary schools[4]					
	Secondary schools (exc. middle deemed)		*Middle deemed secondary schools*		*All secondary schools (inc. middle deemed)*	
	Number of schools	*Average budget share plus grants per pupil (£ per pupil)[1,2,3,6]*	*Number of schools*	*Average budget share plus grants per pupil (£ per pupil)[1,2,3,6]*	*Number of schools*	*Average budget share plus grants per pupil (£ per pupil)[1,2,3,6]*
Total (all school sizes)	462	4,340	85	3,670	547	4,290

[1] Budget share plus grants is the combination of the schools individual budget share plus any revenue grants allocated to the school at the start of the financial year. For 2008-09 this comprises of the Total Budget Share plus any School Standards Grant (including personalisation), School Development Grant, Other Standards Fund Allocation, Threshold and Performance Pay and Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty allocated to schools at the start of the 2008-09 financial year. This does not include any capital funding allocated to schools.

[2] The amount of money allocated to a school depends very much on the individual local authorities' own policy for funding their schools. Different authorities retain varying amounts of funding centrally to spend on behalf of their schools while others chose to give schools more autonomy over how they spend their money by delegating more funding to the individual school.

[3] The pupil numbers used to calculate the per pupil amounts and school size are as reported by the local authority on their Section 52 Budget Statement comprising of the full time equivalent number pupils registered at the school used for the initial determination of the school's budget share under the local authority's allocation formula.

[4] Figures for secondary schools include any LSC funding and LSC pupils for schools with 6th forms. Excluded from the tables are any secondary schools which were reported as either opening or closing during the 2008-09 financial year.

[5] The urban/rural classification is drawn from the Edubase (the DCSF database of educational establishments).

[6] Funding figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

Source:

Funding data are drawn from local authorities' 2008-09 Children, Schools and Families Budget Statements (Table 2) submitted to the DCSF.

5. The urban/rural classification is drawn from the Edubase (the DCSF database of educational establishments).

Social Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to monitor trends in out-of-area placements made by social services. [228646]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 2005-06, the SSDA903 collection of data concerning looked after children has contained information on:

the local authority of placement at 31 March for children looked after on that date; and

the distance in miles between their address at 31 March and their address immediately before entering care.

Information derived from these data was used in developing the Children and Young Person's Bill clause that is concerned with the provision of accommodation and maintenance for children who are looked after by a local authority.

Social Workers: Vacancies

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the vacancy rates for child social workers were in England in each year since 2001, broken down by local authority. [229642]

Beverley Hughes: Children and family social workers are employed directly by local authorities and other employers; information on vacancy rates by local authority is not collected centrally. Ofsted publishes information on overall vacancy rates for Social Services Department posts for children and families by local authority as part of the annual performance assessment. According to this measure, the number of vacant children and family Social Services Department posts fell from 12.1 per cent. in 2004-05 to 11 per cent. in 2006-07. The Local Authority Workforce Intelligence Group published vacancy rate data on children and family social workers between 2002 and 2006, showing a national reduction in vacancy rates from 12.6 per cent. in 2002 to 9.5 per cent. in 2006.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the total cost of the implementation of the diploma programme. [226435]

Jim Knight: We have spent £65.2 million on diplomas during the last three years. We are providing additional funding to support diploma delivery and capacity building over the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) years; over the next three years we are making an additional £373.8 million available to support the diploma programme.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish an estimate of the number of children studying for diplomas in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [227725]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State made a statement in the House of Commons on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 532-33, about the number of young people who have embarked on a diploma course.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils he expects to enrol on a new diploma course in September *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011; and if he will make a statement. [229013]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We will not know how many students will begin a diploma course in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 or *(c)* 2011 until after young people begin to make choices about their options. For 2009 enrolment, young people will begin to make choices next year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools he expects to offer one or more new diploma courses starting in September *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011; and if he will make a statement. [229014]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 307 consortia are approved to offer one or more diplomas from September 2009. A total of 3394 institutions are involved with these consortia, including 2205 maintained secondary schools and 62 Academies. We do not yet have figures for 2010 or 2011 delivery.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate of the number of students who will begin a diploma course in 2009-10 is; and if he will make a statement. [229023]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We will not know how many students will begin a diploma course in 2009-10. For 2009 enrolment, young people will begin to make choices next year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to introduce a general diploma. [229024]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The 14-19 diploma is being introduced in four phases between 2008 and 2011. By 2011 there will be 17 lines of learning covering a wide range of employment sectors and subjects, and we will be introducing a national entitlement to the diploma from 2013. The full range of diploma qualifications will allow all young people who wish to do so to follow a course of study which combines applied and theoretical learning within a coherent overall framework built around core skills of literacy and numeracy. We do not have any plans to introduce a further, general diploma at this time. The Government have, however, committed to carrying out a full review of 14-19 qualifications, including the diploma, in 2013.

Teachers: Males

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many qualified full-time male secondary school teachers were working as teachers in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority; [228710]

(2) how many qualified full-time male primary school teachers were working as teachers in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority. [228711]

Jim Knight: Information on gender of teachers is available from the Database of Teacher Records which is collected primarily for pensions administration purposes. Figures from this source are only considered sufficiently reliable to publish as percentages at the national level.

Information on the proportion of teachers by gender is available at an aggregate level for England and this has been published in table D2 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, January 2007 (Revised) at the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

The school work force census planned for 2010 will provide more detailed information on the school work force at local authority level.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many (*a*) primary schools, (*b*) secondary schools did not have a qualified full-time male teacher in each of the last 10 years. [228712]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not held centrally.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average starting salary of a (*a*) primary and (*b*) secondary school teacher (i) in England, (ii) in London and (iii) outside London was at the latest date for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [229012]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the average salary of newly qualified teachers in full-time regular service in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England, March 2006.

Average salary of newly qualified teachers[1] in full-time regular service in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools[2], March 2006, London, outer London and England

£

	London	Outer London	England
Nursery/ Primary	23,150	22,710	20,270
Secondary	23,900	23,520	20,540

[1] Teachers included are those who attained qualified teacher status in 2005. Those gaining QTS via employment-based routes are excluded.

[2] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

Source:

Database of Teacher Records.

Teachers: Qualifications

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the number of primary teacher training (*a*) undergraduate and (*b*) postgraduate courses with a language specialism. [225836]

Jim Knight: We have been taking a range of measures to boost the primary school teaching work force to prepare for languages becoming compulsory in primary schools in 2011. In total nearly 4,000 trainees had graduated through the primary initial teacher training course in a languages specialism by the end of the 2007/08 academic year. More trainees will be funded for this course, including a projected 900 in 2008/09.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools is also piloting this year, in partnership with 10 ITT providers, additional routes to boost the primary work force teaching languages. A projected 2,000 trainees will go through these courses in 2008/09. Of these trainees, about one third are postgraduate trainees and two thirds undergraduate trainees.

Teachers: Training

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what schemes co-ordinated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local authorities that provide opportunities for experienced, recently retired teachers to act as mentors for existing subject staff in schools on a voluntary or paid basis are in operation. [228664]

Jim Knight: This Department does not co-ordinate such schemes. It is for local authorities or schools to decide whether to pursue them based on local needs and the availability of retired teachers. No information on local schemes is held centrally.

Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 818W, on truancy, how many pupils have had a recorded unauthorised half-day absence while in Year *(a)* 9, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 11 in each of the last three years. [228080]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is not possible, given the amount of analysis required, to provide a response to this question within the time frame required by Parliament. The requested information will be placed in the House of Commons Library within 10 working days.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 27 October 2008

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Theft

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what assessment the Church Commissioners have made of the prevalence of theft of lead from church roofs; and what estimate has been made of the value of lead stolen in the last 12 months. [230723]

Sir Stuart Bell: I understand that in 2007, the last full year for which figures are available, Ecclesiastical Insurance, which insures most Church of England churches, received 2,300 claims relating to the theft of metal from Anglican churches with a total value of £9 million. This compares with 80 claims totalling £300,000 in 2005. By the end of September this year, they had already received claims for more than £8 million so 2008 will clearly be the worst year yet for the theft of metals (predominantly lead) from churches.

This is a serious and widespread problem and the Church continues to work with insurers and the police to find a solution to it. I would draw parishes' attention to guidance provided by the Archbishops Council:

www.churchcare.co.uk

and by Ecclesiastical Insurance:

www.ecclesiastical.com/theftofmetal

WALES

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are members of the *(a)* classic, *(b)* classic plus, *(c)* nuvos and *(d)* premium civil service pension schemes. [229523]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Information on pension details is provided by the Ministry of Justice payroll services. The split between classic plus and premium cannot be distinguished in all cases.

Pensions within my Department are split as follows:

Pension scheme	*Percentage of staff*	*Number of employees in pension scheme*
Classic	63	35
Classic plus and Premium	11	6
Premium	16	9
Nuvos	10	6

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many civil servants working in his Department have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229542]

Mr. Paul Murphy: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members, whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts for the Ministry of Justice.

A copy of the Resource Accounts for financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library, or accessed electronically using the following link:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0708/hc08/0869/0869.asp

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230947]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

National Assembly for Wales: Legislative Competence

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the Government's policy is on the inclusion of clauses limiting the scope of the legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales within draft Orders in Council; and if he will make a statement. [230105]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Draft Orders in Council presented by the Government to Parliament for approval should set out clearly and unambiguously the scope of legislative competence being conferred on the National Assembly for Wales.

The scope of such draft Orders is informed by pre-legislative scrutiny of proposals by the Welsh Affairs Committee, the House of Lords Constitution Committee and the National Assembly for Wales.

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230502]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on Plain English Campaign training courses in each year since 2005. [231239]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No expenditure was incurred.

Referendums

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1385W, on referendums, what his policy is on the application of section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 to requests received from the Welsh Assembly Government during the present term for a referendum under Part IV of the Government of Wales Act 2006. [230106]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 would apply to any request made by the Welsh Assembly Government for a referendum.

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether an impact assessment has been conducted for those proposals in the Blue Badge Reform Strategy relating to local authorities' ability to charge badge application fees; and if he will make a statement. [230109]

Paul Clark: The Blue Badge Reform Strategy contains an impact assessment for all of our proposals.

The application fee has been capped at £2 since 1983 and no longer reflects modern costs and income. We estimate that the average application processing cost is now £14.47 per badge.

We plan to legislate to enable local authorities to set their own fees, which cover these costs more appropriately. The legislation will protect against any excessive charging.

Any future charges will be far outweighed by the financial benefits that badge holders receive in being able to park for free across the UK.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for bringing forward legislative proposals to enact the commitments made in the Blue Badge Reform Strategy to extend the scheme to certain groups hitherto excluded; and if he will make a statement. [230110]

Paul Clark: The strategy contains a broad suite of commitments, which will be implemented over the next five years. We are in the process of developing a project implementation plan, which will set out our time line for delivery in full. Our progress in delivering on our commitments will be overseen by a high level steering group comprised of independent representatives from outside of Government.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its NDPBs and *(c)* its agencies. [224546]

Mr. Hoon: The most recently compiled press officer and communications staff numbers in the central Department and Executive agencies are set out in the following table. Figures shown are for communications specialists engaged in a range of communications activities including news media (press officers), marketing, publicity, strategic communications, internal communications, e-communications and speechwriting. All figures are average or estimated full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed.

Staff FTE	*2007-08 press officer activities*	*Estimated communicators February 2008*
DfT Central	13.8	57.9
DSA	2	15
DVLA	5	34.3
GCDA	0	1
HA	12.2	24.8
MCA	2	5.5
VCA	0	2.5
VOSA	2	9
DfT agencies	23.2	92.1

The DfT(C) figure is only for relevant staff working in the Department's Communication Directorate. DfT(C) also employs other staff who may perform communication roles but numbers for these and NDPBs are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228782]

Mr. Hoon: Figures for overnight subsistence expenditure for the Department and six of its agencies are contained in the following table. The remaining agency, The Government Car and Despatch Agency, is unable to separate accommodation from other costs, and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Overnight accommodation, October 2007 to September 2008

	£
DfT(c)	843,622
MCA	[1]4,127,000
VOSA	429,000
HA	[2]865,835
VCA	88,246
DSA	354,707
DVLA	1,160,000

[1] The figure for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency largely represents costs associated with surveyors performing the agency's statutory function. These costs are reclaimed from customers.

[2] The figure for the Highways Agency is based on accommodation booked through the agency's contracted booking agent, and covers the 11 months October 2007 to August 2008 inclusive, as the September figure is not yet available.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duty

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department takes to recover vehicle excise duty payments outstanding from the registered keepers of vehicles who do not have an address in the UK; how much was spent on such recovery in the last year for which figures are available; how much was recovered; and if he will make a statement. [228811]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* DVLA operates a strategy of education, warning and direct enforcement to help tackle non-compliant unlicensed foreign vehicles. Education activities have involved presentations to community leaders, articles in the media, the issue of information leaflets and warning notices placed on vehicle windscreens. Vehicles circulating in breach of the rules are subject to enforcement action including wheel clamping and impounding. Since 2006, nearly 1200 non-compliant foreign vehicles have been subject to direct enforcement action.

Every year, the overall costs incurred and revenues generated from DVLA's enforcement activities are published in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts. Activities relating to foreign vehicles are not accounted for separately.

In terms of offences committed by drivers of foreign registered vehicles, under new provisions in the Road Safety Act 2006 the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency will, in future, be able to issue fixed penalties to offenders as well as prohibiting vehicles and drivers for various offences. In addition, any driver who does not have a satisfactory address in the UK will be required to pay an immediate deposit equivalent to the amount of the fixed penalty—or the level of fine the offence would be likely to attract if prosecuted in court. The police will also be able to require the immediate payment of such deposits.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has issued on whether replacing the EU flag on a car number plate with a British flag may lead to an MOT failure; and if he will make a statement. [225265]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The current MOT Inspection Manual states that a test failure should not result where a registration plate includes a distinguishing sign of the UK, the Union flag, Scottish Saltire, Cross of St. George, Red Dragon and their respective national identifiers.

Parking Offences: Personal Records

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures are in place to ensure that personal details made available to parking enforcement companies may not be accessed by terrorist organisations. [229789]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Parking companies may obtain data from the DVLA vehicle record where they have reasonable cause. Legislation providing for reasonable cause disclosure has been in existence for over 40 years, predating the establishment of the DVLA. On application for disclosure, all relevant information must be provided to enable checks to be made to establish the veracity of the applicant and the reasonable cause claimed. If approved, the vehicle keeper's name and address are released together with the make, model and colour of the vehicle. A record is kept on the vehicle register of all such disclosures enabling the applicant to be identified if there are later inquiries.

The details disclosed are sent directly to the address associated with the company requesting those details—and never disclosed over the phone or to PO box addresses—and there is a programme of audit to ensure that the application, use and disposal of the data are appropriate and legal.

Parking: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he plans to publish the results of his consultation on Blue Badge reform; and if he will make a statement; [228699]

(2) when he plans to publish the Blue Badge Reform Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [228700]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* The results of the consultation were published on 20 October at the same time as our comprehensive £55 million Blue Badge Reform Strategy, which will address issues of fraudulent use and abuse of the scheme, extend eligibility and improve the consistency of application approval.

Copies of the results to the consultation and strategy can be found on the Department for Transport's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

Railway Stations: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the original estimate was for the cost of the engineering work and platform upgrade at Milton Keynes Central station. [229327]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The engineering work and platform upgrade was estimated at £120 million and is expected to be delivered both on budget and on time.

Road Traffic Offences: Animals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the exclusion of cats from the terms of section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. [229314]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* Since 2001 we have received 18 letters on this subject.

Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies have been used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229075]

Mr. Hoon: A table showing the information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House. It provides actual expenditure on temporary staff by company by year.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency could provide the expenditure information only at disproportionate cost.

Trams

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when stage two of the tram trains trials will commence. [229475]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The trial will occur in two phases. The first phase will test the application on the conventional rail network (Penistone line) and will start in 2010. It will take two years to test the technical and operational feasibility of tram trains.

There is an option for a second phase to test how the tram train operates between the conventional rail network and a street tram system. This is the subject of more detailed business case work by Network Rail.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the decision on the operation of tram trains in England to be made. [229476]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* On 18 March, the then Secretary of State announced the trial of tram-train technology on the Huddersfield-Penistone-Sheffield route (Penistone line). On 29 September, Northern Rail issued an invitation to tender (ITT) for the procurement of trial vehicles for use on the Penistone line. Network Rail is currently undertaking detailed design work for the amendment to the infrastructure.

Transport: Environment Protection

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 52-4WS, on the EU Transport Council, what proposals on the greening of transport were included in the draft conclusions tabled by the French presidency; and what his policy is on each. [230123]

Mr. Hoon: The draft conclusions covered policies in the Commission's "greening of transport" package. The Government have submitted four explanatory memoranda to the Scrutiny Committees describing our position on the package and these are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Products

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* wheat, *(b)* barley, *(c)* fresh vegetables, *(d)* potatoes, *(e)* fresh fruit, *(f)* beef and veal, *(g)* pork, *(h)* bacon and ham, *(i)* mutton and lamb, *(j)* poultry meat, *(k)* eggs and *(l)* liquid milk was produced by volume in England in each year since 1997. [229492]

Jane Kennedy: The figures are shown in the following table.

Volume of UK production

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Wheat	Th. tonnes	15,018	15,449	14,867	16,704	11,580	15,973	14,288	15,473	14,863	14,735	13,137
Barley	Th. tonnes	7,828	6,623	6,581	6,492	6,660	6,128	6,370	5,816	5,495	5,239	5,079
Vegetables	Th. tonnes	2,937	2,863	2,952	2,923	2,865	2,573	2,543	2,591	2,737	2,650	2,526
Potatoes	Th. tonnes	7,128	6,422	7,131	6,178	6,674	6,921	6,058	6,246	5,979	5,727	5,635
Fruit	Th. tonnes	292	278	347	307	331	294	269	294	363	392	398
Beef and Veal	Th. tonnes	698	695	679	704	645	694	703	724	765	852	888
Pork	Th. tonnes	884	921	823	716	595	614	569	577	574	575	617
Bacon and Ham	Th. tonnes	242	240	243	224	217	216	214	211	214	209	185
Mutton and Lamb	Th. tonnes	342	373	392	383	267	307	310	319	336	332	328
Poultry meat	Th. tonnes	1,527	1,548	1,549	1,514	1,566	1,557	1,578	1,571	1,585	1,517	1,460
Eggs	Million dozen	903	883	842	817	861	856	843	892	884	853	825
Milk	Million litres	14,420	14,218	14,587	14,079	14,291	14,448	14,587	14,139	14,062	13,933	13,660

Source:
Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2007, DEFRA

Agriculture: Land

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of implementation of his Department's proposal to require arable farmers to set aside up to 5 per cent. of their land on food security in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [229331]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The impact on food production—and therefore food security—of the proposal for arable farmers to set aside a small percentage (as yet undefined) of their land for environmental purposes is expected to be very small, given that such land is likely to be located on farmers' least productive land.

The Government support the abolition of set-aside but the Secretary of State recognised the potential environmental impacts by commissioning additional environmental monitoring and asking Sir Don Curry to bring together key stakeholders to oversee this work and investigate mitigation options.

Sir Don Curry's High Level Set-Aside Group reported in July 2008 and the Secretary of State agreed that measures were needed as soon as practicable to mitigate the environmental impact of set-aside loss. The Secretary of State issued a statement on the next steps on 25 July, which included commissioning the Rural Payments Agency and Natural England to work up, by the end of the year, how the preferred option could be delivered in practice.

Final decisions on the overall approach, and the detailed arrangements which will determine the impacts, for example, on farming or the environment, will need to be taken in the context of the eventual outcome of the Common Agricultural Policy Health Check. The House will be kept informed of progress.

Agriculture: Manpower

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of the availability of agricultural and horticultural labour in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [227300]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the fruit and vegetable crop on the availability of agricultural and horticultural labour. [227301]

Huw Irranca-Davies: When the new member states acceded to the EU in 2004, the Government decided to allow A8 nationals to take up work freely in the UK subject to registering with the Workers Registration Scheme. Information collected via the scheme records show that by June 2008, some 85,000 accession nationals had registered to take up work in the agricultural sector. Of these, around 6,400 were specifically registered to work as fruit pickers, and 12,900 as crop harvesters.

In addition, the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) provides an assured annual quota of 16,250 workers from the A2 countries, and is an important source of seasonal labour for farmers and growers, particularly at periods of peak activity. Given the importance the industry attaches to SAWS, Government agreed not to phase out the scheme until 2010 in order to give the industry time to adapt to a labour market expanded by nationals from the new member states.

SAWS is administered by the UK Borders Agency. DEFRA Ministers continue to remain in regular contact with their colleagues at the Home Office about the operation of the scheme. In March of this year, the hon. Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw) and the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) met representatives of the National Farmers Union (NFU) and SAWS operators to listen to their concerns about the current level of quota and changes made to the scheme as a result of the accession to the EU of Romania and Bulgaria. This meeting concluded with a commitment to maintain a dialogue between Government and the industry on this matter, and this is ongoing.

In March 2007, the Government set up the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide independent, transparent and evidence-based advice on where labour market shortages exist which can sensibly be filled by migration. MAC underpins the new points-based system for migration to the UK by advising Government on which occupations should be designated as shortage occupations. Tier 3 of the PBS provides a potential route for low-skilled workers from outside the EU to take up work in the UK but is suspended for the foreseeable future, while restrictions remain in place for A2 nationals.

However, immigration is not the only tool available for tackling the problem of labour shortages. The industry also needs to be prepared to consider the scope for technological innovation, and to examine the conditions and prospects available for those working in agriculture. This will enable the industry to compete more effectively in the job market and to re-integrate the domestic labour force.

I am aware of the concerns expressed by some farmers and growers about seasonal labour shortages and the impact these are having on the cultivation and harvesting of fruit and vegetable crops, and we are in regular contact with the Home Office on this and other matters.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been distributed by Yorkshire Forward under agricultural schemes in each of the last three years. [227767]

Jane Kennedy: The principal agricultural scheme managed by Yorkshire Forward is the social and economic elements of the Rural Development Programme for England (although this also benefits non-agricultural businesses operating in rural areas). Yorkshire Forward only assumed responsibility for this funding from October 2006. Before this, it was the responsibility of the Rural Development Service, part of DEFRA.

The total spend under the RDPE and the predecessor rural development programme by Yorkshire Forward since it assumed responsibility is:

	£ million
16 October 2006 to 15 October 2007	1.76
16 October 2007 to 15 October 2008	1.08

The total RDPE budget allocated to Yorkshire Forward in 2008-09 is £9.89 million.

In addition, Yorkshire Forward has supported agricultural businesses through its single programme budget. The spend on specific agricultural projects over the last three financial years is:

	£
2005-06	240,200
2006-07	1,071,700
2007-08	654,800

In addition, agricultural businesses may also have received support through some small ad hoc projects, as well as through mainstream support services, for which it is difficult to obtain separate figures for agriculture.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on badger culling as it relates to the control of bovine tuberculosis. [228910]

Jane Kennedy: In a statement to the House on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1153-55, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) announced the Government's policy that no licences will be issued for culling badgers to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle. We remain open to the possibility of revisiting this policy under exceptional circumstances, or if new scientific evidence were to become available.

We are strengthening our programme of research to develop cattle and badger vaccines and plan for their deployment. Cattle-based TB control measures continue to be critical.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency plans his Department has in the event that cases of bovine tuberculosis spread across the UK. [229328]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* We aim to slow down and prevent the geographic spread of bovine TB to low incidence areas through a comprehensive and risk-based control programme. This includes a surveillance programme of routine testing for all cattle herds and compulsory pre-movement testing of cattle from high-risk herds.

In the event of the disease spreading to new areas across the country we implement measures to try to root out the disease and prevent it from becoming established. In all cases where TB is identified, the herd is placed under movement restrictions until all the eligible cattle in it have cleared two further short interval tests. In addition, in the low incidence areas of the country we use the more sensitive gamma interferon blood test alongside the skin test to identify as many infected cattle as possible at the earliest opportunity and try to clear out infection in the herd quickly.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on research on a bovine tuberculosis vaccine in each of the last three years. [229330]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* DEFRA has spent the following amounts on bovine TB vaccine research over last three years:

	£
2005-06	1,990,418
2006-07	4,957,539
2007-08	5,561,752
Total	12,509,709

Of the total, this works out at around £6.7 million on cattle vaccines and £5.8 million on badger vaccines.

Cats: Tuberculosis

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to identify whether bovine tuberculosis is carried by cats. [229329]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* All mammals including cats are susceptible to the disease to a variable degree; cats can contract and carry the causative bacteria (M. Bovis) if they come into close contact with a source of infection.

DEFRA has been funding passive TB surveillance in domestic and zoo animal species for several years. This consists of a free post mortem and culture service for suspect cases of TB provided by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

In addition, since February 2006, the identification of M. bovis in tissues and clinical samples from farmed and companion animals, including cats, became notifiable to the Divisional Veterinary Manager of Animal Health.

Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was claimed in expenses by Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [229250]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, all DEFRA Ministers are bound and abide by the provisions set out in the Ministerial Code.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: Prosecutions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were prosecuted for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in 2007. [228908]

Jane Kennedy: Court proceedings data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for 2007 will not be available until the end of November 2008.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has for the future use of the office building at 1A Page street; and if he will make a statement. [229116]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Following the re-organisation of departmental accommodation in 2007-08, the office premises at 1A Page street became surplus to operational requirements in March 2008. The Department has been actively seeking to dispose of its property interest both across Government and via exposure to the commercial property market. Current market conditions are challenging and we continue to explore every avenue to secure a disposal of this surplus accommodation.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) agencies sponsored by his Department in each year since 2001. [228937]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows lost and stolen passes from core DEFRA and its agencies from 2001 until 1 October 2008.

	Lost	Stolen
DEFRA Core Department		
2001	60	5
2002	108	16
2003	108	12
2004	152	18
2005	147	11
2006	138	13
2007	149	13
2008	106	7
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science		
2001	n/a	n/a
2002	10	0
2003	16	1
2004	20	1
2005	20	2
2006	7	0
2007	8	0
2008	6	0
Central Science Laboratory		
2001	12	0
2002	14	0
2003	11	0
2004	15	0
2005	8	2
2006	5	1
2007	7	0
2008	7	0
Veterinary Medicines Directorate		
2001	6	0
2002	9	0
2003	10	0
2004	6	0
2005	10	0
2006	12	0
2007	9	0
2008	6	0
Veterinary Laboratories Agency		
2001	5	0
2002	8	1
2003	6	0
2004	7	0
2005	28	4
2006	11	0
2007	n/a	n/a
2008	29	0
Rural Payments Agency		
2001	5	0
2002	23	1
2003	24	2
2004	19	2
2005	9	0
2006	40	4
2007	53	8
2008	74	5

Losses and thefts relating to passes issued to the Marine Fisheries Agency, the Government Decontamination Service and Pesticides Safety Directorate are included in the figures for DEFRA core Department. Data for lost/stolen passes for Veterinary Laboratories Agency are not available for 2007 due to a change in responsibility of pass production. Figures do not include Animal Health as information is not available. All electronic passes reported as lost or stolen are cancelled immediately on access control systems making them invalid. Losses of paper escorted and unescorted visitor passes (which are not able to activate access control points) are rare and are not recorded.

Dogs

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of the Forestry Commission is on dog-free car parks; and which car parks are being considered for designation as dog-free. [229744]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 October 2008]*: In association with the Kennel Club, the Forestry Commission published its guide, Managing Dogs in the Wood, in March 2007. This advocates the promotion of car parks that are attractive and well suited to dog walkers in order to reduce the potential for conflict with other interests. The Forestry Commission has no plans to designate car parks as dog-free but access to some other areas by dogs is actively discouraged, for example in children's play areas.

Dogs: Food

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned into commercial relationships between members of the veterinary profession and commercial dog food producers. [228298]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has carried out no such research.

Environment Protection: New Forest

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1487W, on environment protection: New Forest, if he will place in the Library copies of the publications referred to. [229765]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 October 2008]*: The New Forest National Park Authority has been asked to provide copies of the publications referred to. These will be placed in the Library as soon as they have been received.

Environment Protection: Seas and Oceans

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the provisions in Article 9 of Council Regulation 2371/2002 on the provisions in the Marine Bill; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his European counterparts on the establishment of measures to protect the marine environment beyond the six nautical mile limit; and if he will make a statement. [228074]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There have been no recent discussions between DEFRA and the European Commission, or my European counterparts, on the likely impact of article 9 of Council Regulation 2371/2002 on the Marine Bill, or the establishment of measures under article 9 for the protection of the marine environment beyond six nautical miles.

The legislative framework for the common fisheries policy (CFP) is due to be reviewed in 2012. However, the Commission is required to present a report on access arrangements to the Council and Parliament by the end of 2011. Subsequently, the Council will decide what provisions will apply thereafter. DEFRA will engage fully in this process to ensure that UK rights are not jeopardised, and that effective conservation measures are applied where needed.

In advance of the report, where we wish to protect a marine conservation zone in an area where foreign vessels have access, we will look to do so through the CFP to ensure the equal application of measures to all vessels.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2021W, on fisheries, when he expects to formulate and announce UK policy in relation to the future of the 0-12 nautical mile zone under Article 17 of Council Regulation 2371/2002; and if he will make a statement. [228073]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We will be seeking views from interested parties on possible improvements to the common fisheries policy, including the issue of access to member states waters—in order to influence Commission thinking at an early stage—and will consider our position in the light of responses.

Further information will be available shortly in the 'Fishing Focus' newsletter on the DEFRA website.

Fisheries: Navy

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates there have been no River Class offshore patrol vessels operating as part of the Fishery Protection Squadron since April; why there were no River Class offshore patrol vessels operating on each such date; what alternative provision was made available; and if he will make a statement. [228063]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information is as follows:

21 July: HMS Severn suffered two breakdowns of its sea-boats in a 24-hour period on 20 July which resulted in the vessel having to anchor and await repairs/replacements by Vosper Thorneycroft. HMS Tyne was at stand-off on 20/21 July, between patrols. No alternative provision was required.

30 and 31 August: HMS Mersey was programmed to be on patrol on those days with a stand-off on 2 and 3 September. However, the stand-off dates for HMS Mersey were brought forward to 30 and 31 August so that it could participate fully in the Joint Deployment Plan for Cod in the North Sea, which commenced on 1 September. HMS Tyne was at stand-off on 30/31 August between patrols. No alternative provision was required.

On each of these occasions, the third River Class vessel was not programmed for duty, was not available and was not required.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to introduce quota management reforms; and if he will make a statement. [228168]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Examining how best to reform the quota management system is a priority for me, and I am currently considering options to take this work forward. This work will be done in close partnership with the devolved Administrations and in consultation with the industry. It will also need to be considered in the context of the common fisheries policy reform agenda.

Flood Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood protection schemes have been *(a)* postponed and *(b)* delayed in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [224220]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* DEFRA has overall policy responsibility for flood risk management and provides funding for schemes to Operating Authorities (Environment Agency, local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards). The funding for flood risk has been administered by the Environment Agency since April 2006. Information on potential projects is collected from operating authorities and the Environment Agency decide which projects to promote and their timing to meet the targets set by DEFRA. Since the projects are not formally approved until funding is confirmed none will have been postponed or have had their commencement delayed.

Some projects do, however, take longer to deliver than is originally envisaged. From 2004-08 the Environment Agency's National Capital Programme Management Service was responsible for a total of 146 completed projects. Of these, 83 were completed early or on time and 63 were completed after the expected date. 70 per cent. of these projects were delivered within two months of the expected completion date.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what priorities he has set for reducing flood risk in *(a)* urban and rural areas. [228706]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency allocates funding to Regional Flood Defence Committees for both new capital schemes and to maintain existing defences on the basis of national priorities to ensure that the funding is spent to optimum effect. This inevitably means that the allocation to each Regional Flood Defence Committee is likely to change year on year, particularly as capital schemes are completed.

Projects in sparsely populated areas will tend to score less highly than projects which protect larger numbers of people or higher asset values for a given cost.

DEFRA is working with the Environment Agency, other operating authorities and stakeholders to develop a prioritisation process for the capital programme. There will be no explicit geographic element to the allocation of funds which will be done to maximise the benefit achieved from the programme on a national basis. Allocation of funds for maintenance works is undertaken by the Environment Agency on the basis of their asset management strategy which takes account of risk; again there is no geographic element.

Flood Control: Cost Effectiveness

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what outcome measures are used to assess the effectiveness of expenditure on flood risk management measures; what criteria relating to outcomes for *(a)* the economy, *(b)* commerce and *(c)* industry are included in these measures; and what his policy is on the inclusion of flood security as an outcome measure. [228697]

Jane Kennedy: A set of nine outcome measures for flood and coastal erosion risk was published, following public consultation, in June 2007. The measures are described on the DEFRA website and the first measure, overall benefits, will include monetary estimates of the benefits to the national economy, with the expectation that in time the costs and benefits for different sectors will be identified separately. The term "flood security" is ambiguous, but a review of the outcome measures is under way and this will include consideration of alternative and additional measures.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which flood defences have been improved in 2008; and how much each improvement cost. [228477]

Jane Kennedy: In 2007-08 the Environment Agency reported that 31,505 houses received reduced flood risk in England from capital investment in 38 projects which are in the following list. Information on improvement cost in each case is not available.

Environment Agency Region	*Capital investment*
Anglian	Southwold - Easton Bavents
Anglian	Broadland Private Public Partnership Programme Contract
Anglian	Lincolnshire 2005 to 2010
Anglian	Tidal Nene Stabilisation
Midlands	West Bridgford
North East	Selby Tidal Defences
North East	Stoning - Tidal (Dales)
North East	Cockshaw Burn at Hexam
North West	River Eden/Pettril Flood Defences, Carlisle
North West	Lower Lancaster Flood Alleviation Scheme
North West	Thornton-Cleveleys
Southern	Lymington River Flood Alleviation Scheme
Southern	Pett Shingle Nourishment Phase 2-6
Southern	River Rother Tidal Walls Imp Scheme (West)
Southern	High Knocke to Dymchurch Redoubt SD Phases 1 and 2
Southern	Seaford Bulk Shingle Recycling
Southern	East Suttons to Denge Interim Beach Management 2007-08
Southern	Pevensey Bay: Eastbourne to Cooden Sea Defences Public Private Partnership
South West	Boscastle - Valency, Phase 3
South West	Padstow Harbour
South West	Sutton Harbour (Shoreline Management Plan 2)
Thames	Berkshire and Dagenham Front Marley Waterproofing 1
Thames	Berkshire and Dagenham R39.02 Marley Waterproofing 2
Thames	Dartford Creek Frontage - Repairs
Thames	Shift and Lock Mechanism
Thames	Thames Barrier; Programmed Replacements Corrosion Protection Systems
Thames	East Clandon Stream at Send
Thames	Leys Flood Defence Wall Repair and Bank Stabilisation
Thames	High Wycombe Trash Screen
Thames	Thames Barrier and Associated Gates TB Logic Control Systems
Thames	TB: RSG 100 year life
Thames	Thames Barrier and Associated Gates TB Pier Crane Modernisation
Thames	Thames Barrier and Associated Gates TB Replacement Tools and Equipment
Thames	Improved Communications Links to Thames Barrier and Associated Gates
Thames	Associated Gates Corrosion Protection System
Thames	Rainham Main Sluice Frontage
Thames	Queenhithe Wharf Frontage
Thames	Folly, Felstead, Coldharbour, Sufference, Waterways Frontages

Food Supplies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report,* column 2419W, on food, what estimate he has made of the level of UK self-sufficiency in *(a)* milk and other dairy products and *(b)* each type of fish in each year since 1997. [228518]

Jane Kennedy: Figures on the level of UK self-sufficiency in *(a)* milk and other dairy products and *(b)* fish in each year since 1997. Figures are only readily available for fish in total.

UK production (in weight or volume) as a percentage of total new supply for use in the UK

	Liquid milk	*Butter*	*Cheese*	*Cream -fresh, frozen, sterilized*	*Condensed milk*	*Milk powders*	*Fish*[1]
1997	99	78	67	154	130	350	74
1998	99	77	65	163	136	393	77
1999	100	74	63	157	127	207	70
2000	100	65	63	146	111	330	70
2001	100	63	66	128	105	219	65
2002	100	65	65	133	112	298	66
2003	100	63	61	144	101	332	74
2004	100	58	60	126	96	211	70
2005	100	59	60	125	83	112	65
2006	100	52	59	121	74	152	54
2007[2]	100	61	55	114	76	167	64

[1] Landings are given in terms of landed weight equivalent (i.e. head on, gutted for most species). Landings include transhipments of mackerel and exclude salmon and trout. Excludes fish products.

[2] Provisional.

Source:

DEFRA HMRC, MFA.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to increase national self-sufficiency in food production. [228075]

Jane Kennedy: The UK is currently 60 per cent. self-sufficient in all foods, and over 74 per cent. self-sufficient in foods that can be produced in this country.

In July, the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit published a study entitled "Food Matters: Towards a Strategy for the 21st Century", which identified a number of areas of food policy requiring further examination by the Government. DEFRA is taking forward the report's recommendation on the need for a sustainable vision to guide future food policy in conjunction with the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency.

The Government are also consulting on their discussion document, "Ensuring the UK's Food Security in a Changing World", to ensure that all of our food supply chains, from whatever source, are resilient and robust in the face of challenges to our food security in the future.

Food: Imports

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure that imported food meets the *(a)* quality, *(b)* hygiene, *(c)* safety and *(d)* animal welfare standards required from food producers in England. [228142]

Jane Kennedy: Imports of products of animal origin from countries outside the EU must be checked at approved border inspection posts (BIPs), where they undergo veterinary checks before they are allowed to enter the EU.

Such products can only be imported from countries which are on the approved third country import list for that product. The products must be from establishments approved to export to the EU.

The European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office is responsible for carrying out inspections of countries and the establishments that are approved to export to the EU, to ensure that they comply with EU hygiene requirements.

The World Trade Organisation rules do not allow us to ban imports on the grounds of the welfare standards applying in third countries.

Fruit: Schools

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the EU proposals for free fruit provision in schools; and if he will make a statement. [226767]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* On 8 July 2008 the European Commission published a proposal providing for the introduction of a voluntary EU-wide school fruit scheme for the supply into schools of fruit (including bananas) and vegetables. The proposals are principally for the provision of €90 million of European funds for the purchase of the fruit and vegetables themselves, allocated to member states on the basis of their population of school children aged between six and 10 years. A member state which chose to take part in the scheme would be required to provide co-finance and to submit a national strategy. EC funding cannot be used to replace existing national funding.

The proposals for the scheme are currently being finalised in Brussels, with the intention that an agreement should be reached by the end of this year. As the proposals develop, they are being assessed and considered by officials and Ministers across Government and also with the devolved Administrations and external stakeholders.

Madders Report

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take in response to the Madders Report on animal movements. [227936]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The following Madders recommendations have been implemented:

abolition of temporary calf passport

the issue of cattle passports to late applicants, where parentage of the calf can be proved by DNA testing revised guidance issued to ensure that cattle arriving at an abattoir with a valid passport with one correct ear tag (and evidence that a second tag had been applied) are accepted as properly identified.

British Cattle Movement Service have written to ear tag manufacturers seeking assurance that standards have been maintained.

Bill Madders (and Iain Anderson in the review and lessons learned exercise following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2007) recommended changes to the way in which DEFRA records the locations to and from which livestock are moved. Work is currently under way to establish the most effective means of doing this. I expect a consultation exercise to follow the conclusion of this work.

Madders also recommended greater use of isolation facilities to allow farmers more flexibility to avoid standstills imposed by movements of livestock on to their holdings. I have accepted this recommendation and expect to consult on implementing it in due course.

Pollution: Digswell

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will arrange for the Environment Agency to test the pumping station at Digswell in Hertfordshire for bromate contamination. [228549]

Jane Kennedy: The Digswell pumping station is a water supply borehole operated by Three Valleys Water plc. The Environment Agency will co-operate with Three Valleys Water plc to take samples of both raw (before treatment) and treated (as put into public supply) water from the borehole.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many powers of entry have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* abolished by legislation by his Department since 1997. [228041]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the reply given to him on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 451-52W.

Recycling: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was recycled by each local authority in East Sussex in the latest period for which figures are available. [229993]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the amount of household waste sent to be recycled or composted by each authority in East Sussex county council in financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Household waste sent for recycling and composting

		Tonnes
Authority	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Wealden District Council	19,253	20,424
Rother District Council	5,829	9,395
Lewes District Council	7,274	8,040
Hastings Borough Council	5,789	7,352
Eastbourne Borough Council	8,196	9,200
East Sussex County Council	75,315	83,246

Source:
WasteDataFlow, Best Value Performance Indicators

Rights of Way

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what functions the National Rights of Way Casework Team had at its establishment; what additional functions it has been given since its establishment; and how many people have been assigned to the team in respect of these additional functions. [229704]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 October 2008]*: The functions undertaken by the National Rights of Way Casework Team from its establishment, and still to date, are direction requests (representations) and Schedule 14 Appeals, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and Orders which the Secretary of State may decide to make under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for stopping up or diversion of rights of way in relation to proposed planning development.

There are no additional people assigned to the functions of the Rights of Way team, although one person who is engaged part time in this work is also engaged in other national transport casework which is now undertaken by the Government office for the north east.

Waste Disposal: Schools

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many schools have registered exempt low risk waste operations; and if he will make a statement. [230904]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency currently has 913 schools registered for exempt waste activities. Of these, 460 are for the storage of recyclables and 302 are for composting.

Waste Management

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable for creation of regional waste strategy boards is; what their budgets are; what their powers are; how their membership will be comprised; and how many have been established to date. [230331]

Jane Kennedy: There is no statutory requirement for regional waste boards, no funding allocated for them, and no timetable for their formation.

A statutory board has been established in London. The Government have set out its membership and constitution in the London Waste and Recycling Board Order 2008. This legislation does not apply to any other English region.

There are no other boards established at present. However, the south east and the north east are considering how they might set up structures to provide strategic overview of waste material use and recovery, and what resources may be required to achieve them. These would be purely advisory and have no statutory powers.

Water: Low Incomes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to assist low income families with the costs of sewage and water pipe repairs. [227815]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: There is no specific assistance available to low income families towards the costs of sewage or water pipe repairs. All water companies do however offer some degree of free or subsidised repair and replacement for domestic customers' water supply pipes. This is undertaken as a leakage control measure as part of the water companies' statutory duty to promote the efficient use of water by their customers. The exact nature of the repair policy and any restrictions to that policy are dependent on the water company and its operating conditions.

Weedkillers

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Advisory Committee on Pesticides was first informed by the manufacturers that the hormone-based weed killer aminopyralid or similar chemical formulations were capable of surviving ingestion by horses or cows, and being composted in manure, and then having adverse effects on crops treated with the manure. [229905]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The properties of the group of herbicides to which aminopyralid belongs—pyridine carboxylic acids—have long been recognised. As a result of this, when the Advisory Committee on Pesticides considered the evaluation of aminopyralid in 2005 it concluded that products containing it should carry warnings on their labels that manure that could contain aminopyralid should not be used on susceptible crops, or on land intended for growing such crops, until all plant material had fully decomposed.

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date members of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides were first informed that aminopyralid or similar chemical formulations had been found to cause adverse effects outside the United Kingdom on crops when manure made from animal waste from animals that had grazed pasture treated with these chemicals was spread on land growing such crops. [229907]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The potential of aminopyralid and other pyridine carboxylic acid herbicides to produce the effects observed were taken into account when the Advisory Committee on Pesticides considered this pesticide in 2005. That this group of chemicals can produce these effects has been known since at least the 1980s.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will answer question *(a)* 224594, *(b)* 224593, *(c)* 224886, *(d)* 224812, *(e)* 224627, *(f)* 224808, *(g)* 225455, *(h)* 225510, *(i)* 223902, *(j)* 224809, *(k)* 223900, *(l)* 224810, *(m)* 223893, *(n)* 223899, *(o)* 223901, *(p)* 224196 and *(q)* 224595. [226823]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I can confirm the following:

(a) 224594 question withdrawn without notice

(b) 224593 answered 20 October

(c) 224886 answered 13 October

(d) 224812 answered 13 October

(e) 224627 answered 13 October

(f) 224808 answered 14 October

(g) 225455 answered 14 October

(h) 225510 answered 14 October

(i) 223902 answered 9 October

(j) 224809 answered 13 October

(k) 223900 answered transferred to Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) answered 20 October

(l) 224810 answered 14 October

(m) 223893 should read 223898 transferred to Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and answered on 14 October

(n) 223899 transferred to Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

(o) 223901 transferred to Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) answered 20 October

(p) 224196 answered 9 October

(q) 224595 answered 13 October

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which districts of Helmand Province are deemed to be *(a)* under UK, ISAF and NATO forces or the Afghan Government control, *(b)* under Taliban control and *(c)* in indeterminate control; and if he will make a statement. [227374]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: International Security Assistance Force, the Afghan National Security Forces and the Government of Afghanistan have established a security presence in the districts of Lashkar Gar, Nahr-e Saraj (Gereshk), Musa Qal'ah, Sangin, Garmsir, Kajaki, Nawah-ye Barakzai and Nad Ali. Operations against the Taliban in Helmand continue, with the purpose of bringing more of the province under the control of the Afghan Government.

However, the insurgents continue to pose a threat through improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers and opportunistic attacks.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of casualties of *(a)* insurgents and *(b)* civilians in Helmand Province in Afghanistan in 2007-08. [227973]

Mr. Hutton: We do not routinely collate data on the number of insurgents killed by UK forces in Afghanistan. Collecting and verifying data is extremely difficult given the nature of the conflict. As we have said repeatedly, our long-term strategy towards defeating the insurgency in Afghanistan is through a wide range of military and non-military activity and not through an attritional, purely military campaign.

We regret incidents where civilians are accidentally killed as a result of actions by international forces. Procedures are in place, and being constantly updated in the light of experience, both to minimise the risk of these casualties occurring and to investigate any incidents that do happen. Wherever possible, local populations are warned of impending operations. We should remember the insurgents are the real threat to the safety and security of the Afghan people by their indiscriminate use of violence. ISAF forces are not present on a permanent basis in many parts of Helmand province, which makes it difficult to monitor atrocities against the civilian population by the Taliban. It is therefore impossible to estimate with any confidence the number of civilian casualties in Helmand province in 2007-08 that have been caused by the current conflict.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of recent comments by President Zardari about the position of the Taliban in the conflict in Afghanistan; what assessment he has made of those comments; and whether he has responded to them. [229819]

Mr. Hutton: Since the welcome return of a democratically elected Government in Pakistan, the Government have maintained close contact with President Zardari, his Cabinet and senior officers in the Pakistan military. International co-operation is central to our efforts in the region and I welcome the Government of Pakistan's commitment to countering terrorism as a top priority. While I cannot discuss specific comments that President Zardari has made recently, we continually emphasise the important role that a stable and democratic Pakistan has to play in delivering success in Afghanistan and that both our and Pakistan's interests are placed in jeopardy by Taliban operating from within its borders.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps the Government have taken to uphold the military covenant. [228113]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Government are fully committed to meeting their responsibilities for serving personnel, veterans and their families. This includes a long-standing programme of improvements covering, for example, service pay, accommodation, health and welfare provision, force protection and personal equipment. This was reinforced in July 2008 when we published the Service Personnel Command Paper. The paper sets out our commitment to a package of over 40 measures in the fields of education and skills, childcare provision, benefits, career building, support for our Foreign and Commonwealth Service personnel and a doubling of the lump sum payments for the most serious injuries under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. It also outlines further improvements we have made recently in health, housing and support for bereaved families. This is the first cross-Government strategy for service personnel and it sets the standard for the level and scope of support that they, their families and veterans can expect.

We recognise that there is a wider national responsibility for supporting our armed forces and the independent Report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces published in May sets out a number of recommendations to encourage both wider public support for the armed forces and recognition of their contribution to the nation; the Government have made clear their broad support for the recommendations of this report and will publish their detailed response shortly.

Service chiefs have confirmed that the military covenant is not broken.

Armed Forces: Diabetes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force have policies in place to prevent discrimination against personnel with diabetes on the basis of their condition. [229438]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces' policies are intended to protect sufferers of diabetes from military circumstances which may adversely impact upon their condition and to ensure the effectiveness of the armed forces. For example, a diabetic individual deployed on operations may experience difficulties in monitoring blood or urinary glucose levels; accessing medication; taking regular meals; maintaining a regular sleep pattern; accessing shared-care diabetic clinics; and accessing specialist services such as ophthalmology or chiropody. Such circumstances would adversely impact upon their diabetic control, thus increasing their risk of micro and macrovascular complications. Furthermore, an uncontrolled diabetic may constitute a risk not only to themselves, but also to others in a military or operational context. The single services manage individuals who develop diabetes during their service careers, according to their specific operational requirements and each case will be considered on an individual basis.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the defence casualty welfare package includes; and how much the daily payment towards meeting expenses incurred for the use of *(a)* television, *(b)* internet and *(c)* telephone at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak is. [220597]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is a range of existing support for patients that includes both direct financial and indirect financial elements; the drawing together of these elements is informally called the casualty welfare package.

The financial allowances that military patients receive are dependent on their individual circumstances. All patients hospitalised for one or more nights receive incidental expenses (£5 per 24-hour period) and those hospitalised for periods of 10 days or more receive longer separation allowance (ranging from £6.38 to £26.94 per day). Operational casualties hospitalised after starting to receive the operational allowance will continue to receive the allowance for the duration of their planned deployment (£13.08 per day).

Armed Forces: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many days on average an RAF helicopter was *(a)* on operations, *(b)* engaged in non-operational flying, *(c)* available but not flown, *(d)* in scheduled maintenance, *(e)* undergoing other repair activity, *(f)* undergoing unscheduled maintenance, *(g)* awaiting spares and *(h)* not worked in each of the last three years, broken down by type of helicopter. [230173]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of *(a)* single living and *(b)* service family accommodation in the UK were occupied at the latest date for which figures are available. [220659]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In the UK, in excess of 80,000 single living accommodation bed-spaces and 40,000 service family accommodation properties are currently occupied.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pinch point trades there were in each service in each year since 2003. [230168]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The inclusion of a trade on the pinch point register is subjective. There are a variety of factors, not of all which reflect a manning shortfall that will determine the inclusion of a trade. Single services review their list quarterly. Recent improvements in the analysis of problem trades has narrowed the focus on trades to specific rank ranges or has sub-divided a trade in order to better focus resources at the problem. This has led in part to the gradual rise in the number of pinch points. For example Merlin Aircrew has now been sub-divided into Merlin pilots, Observers and Aircrewman. By narrowing the focus into rank areas such as Infantry Pte-LCpl resources are better focused and the impact more apparent.

	RN	*Army*	*RAF*
2003-04	10	26	19
2004-05	12	25	23
2005-06	12	24	21
2006-07	11	27	14
2007-08	20	30	25

Armed Forces: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid *(a)* by (i) employees and (ii) employers into and *(b)* to those receiving pensions payments from the armed forces pension scheme in each of the last five years. [229434]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces pension scheme (AFPS) is a non-contributory scheme. When pensions become payable the cost is met from Government revenues at that time. There is no pension fund or deficit. Income from employers' contributions is used to offset the costs of paying benefits to pensioners each financial year. Minimal income is received from armed forces personnel who opt to make additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) or to purchase added years.

The amounts contributed and paid under the AFPS for financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07 are set out in the following table:

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Employer contributions (£ billion)	1.146	1.224	1.246	1.404	1.420
Employee contributions from AVCs/ purchase of added years (£ million)	1.328	1.612	1.669	0.657	0.594
Pensions in payment (£ billion)	2.440	2.517	2.664	2.846	3.009

Note:

The AFPS Resource Accounts for financial year 2007-08 have yet to be finalised and published.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the annual change in the cost to the public purse of the 2006 changes to the armed forces pension scheme; and if he will make a statement; [229489]

(2) what methods he has considered for reducing public sector pension liabilities in relation to the armed forces pension scheme; [230353]

(3) what the projected savings are of the armed forces pension scheme 2005 changes in relation to public sector pensions for members of the armed forces. [230354]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For the armed forces pension scheme 1975, the 2006 change constituted the introduction from 6 April 2006 of a preserved pension age of 65 for future service. The preserved pension age for service before that date is 60.

The armed forces pension scheme 2005, which was introduced for new entrants on 6 April 2005, was designed with a preserved pension age of 65. In addition further savings were realised by the overall scheme design. For example, removing the immediate pension for those leaving before the age of 55 and replacing it with early departure payment (EDP) scheme benefits for those who serve until at least age 40 and have at least 18 years service. EDP income, which is paid until the preserved pension comes into payment at age 65, is paid at a significant lower level that would have been the case if the pension had become due on leaving the armed forces.

The adoption of age 65 as the preserved pension age was a specific measure aimed at tackling the increased costs of longevity, and savings from this will essentially be longer term.

A proportion of the overall saving was recycled into improved death-in-service and dependants' benefits. Savings in employer contributions for the armed forces pension schemes is estimated at around £50 million in 2008-09, which will grow in subsequent years due to the increasing proportion of membership covered by the new scheme. In the longer term, annual savings are estimated at around £125 million a year.

Armed Forces: Weapons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the out of service dates of the *(a)* AS90 and *(b)* L118 are. [230166]

Mr. Quentin Davies: On present planning assumptions, which may change, both the AS90 and the L118 will be withdrawn from service in 2023.

Armed Forces: Young People

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel aged under 18 years died *(a)* while on active service and *(b)* in training in each of the last five years; and what the cause of death was in each case. [229408]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been no deaths of UK service personnel under 18 years of age while on active service in the last five years, where active service is defined as military duty in an operational area.

In the last five years two UK service personnel aged under 18 years have died on training, both deaths occurred in 2007. One resulted from drowning; the other was the result of a helicopter crash.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many under 18-year-olds are serving in the armed forces. [229409]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of under 18-year-olds serving in the armed forces can be found in Tri Service Publication (TSP) 8—Age Distribution of UK Regular Forces. Table 1 shows the number of UK regular forces by age and sex as at 1 April 2008.

www/dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=1&thiscontent=80&Publish Time=09:30:00&date=2008-05-29&disText=1%20April%202008&from= listing&topDate=2008-05-29

TSP 8 is published on an annual basis.

Copies of TSP 8 are available in the Library of the House and are also available at

www.dasa.mod.uk.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many under 18-year-olds have applied for discretionary discharge under the unhappy minors provisions in the last three years; and how many of these applications were granted. [229410]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System for all three services, the total number of under-18s who have left the armed forces can be provided but this figure cannot be broken down by the reasons for leaving.

There are no known circumstances in which a formal application for discretionary discharge under the 'Under 18 Discharge as of Right' scheme has been rejected. The commanding officer has discretion to delay a decision on discharge (for example, if at sea) if he has doubts about the permanence of the individual's unhappiness; however, it is exceedingly rare for such an 'unhappy' individual to be refused immediate permission to leave.

The number of under-18 personnel who have left the armed forces in the last three completed financial years are:

	FY 2005-06	*FY 2006-07*	*FY 2007-08*
Naval Service	245	[1]220	[1]255
Army	1,440	[1]1,675	[1]1,765
RAF	35	[1]10	[1]65

[1] Figures are provisional and subject to review.

Notes:

1. Due to ongoing validation of data from JPA, all Naval Service flow statistics from period ending 31 October 2006, Army flow statistics from period ending 31 March 2007, and flow statistics from period ending 30 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

2. As a consequence of JPA, Army outflow data by age are unavailable for period ending 31 March 2007. Consequently Army data shown for FY 2006-07 are for the 12 months from 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the commitment of young people who joined the armed forces before the age of 18 years to serve for four years beyond their 18th birthday with *(a)* international and human rights conventions and *(b)* the International Labour Organisation Child Labour Conventions. [229411]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence does not consider the minimum commitment period for soldiers under the age of 18 years on enlistment into the Army to be in breach of either international and human rights conventions or the International Labour Organisation Child Labour Conventions.

AWE Burghfield: Floods

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency planning had been conducted at AWE Burghfield before the 2007 floods to prepare for such an eventuality; and if he will make a statement. [229694]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Contingency planning at AWE Burghfield is based on the output of a rolling programme of assessments undertaken as part of the site safety cases. Before the 2007 flooding these concluded that the surface water management system would be adequate to prevent flooding of the operational facilities in normal circumstances.

Prior to the 2007 event, localised flooding was experienced at AWE Burghfield, which resulted in further contingency measures being implemented. This involved clearing and dredging the Burghfield Brook, which runs through the site, and reprofiling its banks to allow a greater amount of water to be contained and a constant flow to be maintained.

Although the measures taken mitigated the effects of the July 2007 heavy rainfall, flooding still occurred as run-off from surrounding fields migrated to the site. Water sampling was completed throughout the site and no abnormal results were detected. At no time was there any threat to the operational safety of AWE sites, to the public or the environment.

China: Armed Forces

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence further to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 130W, on China: armed forces, whether the interruption of military co-operation with China by EU member states, as agreed in the Madrid Declaration 1989, remains in place. [229958]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I said in my answer to the hon. Member on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 130W, most of the measures of the Madrid Declaration of 1989 have long since fallen into disuse. This includes the measure specifying the interruption of military co-operation by member states. The arms embargo, however, remains in place.

Colombia: Security Services

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department records the names of Colombian security forces personnel who have received training from UK military advisers in Colombia. [229310]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence keeps a record of Colombian security force personnel who have received UK training in Colombia for future monitoring purposes, including any accusations of human rights abuses. To date, there have been no cases of any UK-trained personnel being involved in such abuses. As we have previously made clear, the names of trained personnel are withheld as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Defence: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of gross domestic product was spent on defence *(a)* including the cost of military operations and *(b)* excluding the cost of operations in each year since 1997; and what forecast he has made of the proportions to be so spent in each year to 2011. [230157]

Mr. Hutton: Using audited outturn figures drawn from Ministry of Defence annual reports and accounts, historic figures are set out in table 1 as follows.

Table 1

	Percentage GDP including cost of operations	*Percentage GDP excluding cost of operations*
1997-98	2.6	2.6
1998-99	2.8	2.8
1999-2000	2.7	2.7
2000-01	2.6	2.6
2001-02	2.5	2.5
2002-03	2.5	2.4
2003-04	2.5	2.4
2004-05	2.8	2.7
2005-06	2.7	2.5
2006-07	2.6	2.4
2007-08 (estimated)	2.6	2.4

Note:

Figures to 2003-04 are calculated on a cash/near cash basis; from 2004-05 onwards they are calculated using total DEL.

Figures for expenditure on defence (defined according to the UN's Classification of Function of Government Function (COFOG) category) are published in HM Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, as set out at table 2. These figures include the additional costs of military operations but do not separately identify these costs.

Table 2

	Percentage of GDP (outturn)
1997-98	2.6
1998-99	2.8
1999-2000	2.7
2000-01	2.6
2001-02	2.5
2002-03	2.5
2003-04	2.5
2004-05	2.5
2005-06	2.5
2006-07	2.4
2007-08 (estimated)	2.4

Our latest forecast for the additional cost of operations will be set out in the Winter Supplementary Estimates. We do not publish forecasts for the additional cost of operations in future years or by proportion of GDP.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229161]

Mr. Quentin Davies: An IT project can vary from installing single computers and software licences to major programmes, such as the Defence Information Infrastructure. To confirm all of the IT projects the Ministry of Defence, and each of its agencies, is undertaking and their estimates of cost and completion date can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229537]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is important to bear in mind that the Ministry of Defence employs staff in a wide variety of occupations and professions. Some, such as our teachers and lecturers, belong to the teachers pension scheme while our medical and nursing staff belong to the NHS pension scheme. These, of course, are in a minority. The vast majority of MOD civil servants are eligible to belong to the civil service pension scheme—although some choose not to join a pension scheme or opt for a partnership pension account. Consequently, the number of staff belonging to the four specified pension schemes falls short of the Department's total civil service strength which, as at 1 September, stood at 79,510 (full and part-time). Using the latest data, the figures, which include trading funds and agencies, are as follows:

	Number	*Percentage*
Classic	49,626	62.41
Classic Plus	2,382	3.00
Nuvos	3,470	4.36
Premium	19,325	24.31
Total	74,803	94.08

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229555]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Ministry of Defence's Resource Accounts for financial year 2007-08 and those for the Department's agencies and trading funds are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) agencies sponsored by his Department in each year since 2001. [228939]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Details of lost/stolen security passes for 2003 were provided in an answer given on 28 January 2004, *Official Report*, column 371W, to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten). However, figures for lost/stolen MOD security passes are not held centrally as they are issued at establishment level and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of lost/stolen service identity cards which are also used by service personnel as a security pass for site access purposes are held centrally but are only available from 2004. For numbers of lost/stolen service identity cards for the period February 2004 to June 2006 I refer the hon. Member to the answer on 4 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 1713W, to the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes).

Details of lost/stolen service identity cards for the period from July 2006 until 31 December 2007 were provided in an answer on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 293W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

The number of lost/stolen service identity cards for the period from 1 January to 30 September 2008 is 5,313. It is not possible to differentiate between lost or stolen cards or whether the card relates to the Department or one of its agencies.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229084]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Until November 2006, MOD business units were individually responsible for engaging their own temporary staff. Since November 2006, a limited service to engage temporary staff has been provided through the People, Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA). This does not yet cover all grades employed by the MOD, and therefore business units are still making their own arrangements where necessary. This means that information on total expenditure during each of the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Between November 2006 and September 2008, expenditure on temporary staff engaged by the PPPA to work in the MOD has been £10 million. The value of individual contracts has not been given due to commercial confidentiality. These staff have been obtained from the following list of agencies.

A & J Recruitment
Acorn4Jobs
Active Staff
Adecco
Alpha Personnel
AM Personnel
Armstrong Appointments
Atos Origin UK
Aviation Requirements
Blue Arrow
Brook Street
Bucks&Berks
COS Recruitment
Carlisle Staffing
Castle Recruitment
Champion Employment Agency
Freshapproach
Hays
Hays (outside)
Jennifer Griffiths Recruitment
Jobs@Pertemps
Josephine Sammons
Key Personnel
Manpower UK Ltd.
Office Angels
Opus Appointments
Personnel Selection
Pertemps Recruitment Partnership
Phoenix Strategic
Recruitment Express
Reed (outside)
Reed Employment
Reed Property & Construction
Robert Half
Royle Recruitment
S Com Group
Saffron Recruitment
Secondsite Recruitment
Select Appointments
Spring Personnel
Stafforce Recruitment
Storm Recruitment
Systems Consultant Services
Tate Recruitment
Topstaff Recruitment

Total Recruitment
Turner Charles
Venus Office Staffing
Weststaff
Wisewalk Resources
Workforce Staff & Business

Hercules Aircraft: Safety

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons foam suppressant was not fitted to the wing-tanks of Hercules XL 179 which was shot down by enemy fire over Baghdad in 2005. [230524]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Explosion suppressant foam (ESF) was not fitted to the wing tanks of Hercules XV 179 in 2002 because it was not judged to be a sufficiently high priority at that time in relation to the assessed threat and emphasis was instead placed on implementing a range of other protective measures. The loss of XV179 showed that judgment was incorrect in relation to the threats which subsequently existed in 2005.

The MOD has spent over £150 million on urgent operational requirements for the Hercules fleet since 2001, including enhanced defensive aids suites and flight deck armour. Furthermore, all Hercules aircraft operating in Iraq or Afghanistan are now fitted with ESF.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the concluding comments of Wiltshire Coroner David Masters into the loss of Hercules XL179; and if he will make a statement. [230526]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am grateful for the very thorough and professional manner in which David Masters, HM Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon conducted the inquest into the loss of the 10 personnel tragically killed when Hercules XV179 crashed in Iraq in 2005. He brought a number of lessons to our attention and it is clear that there have been failures in our procedures for which I apologise. We will address all the issues raised during the inquest, where we have not already done so.

Horn of Africa: Piracy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the command relationships will be between Combined Task Force-150, Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa and the new EU-led anti-piracy mission off the Horn of Africa; [228404]

(2) how many British ships will participate in the EU-led anti-piracy mission off the Horn of Africa, broken down by type of ship; and for how long the mission will last; [228405]

(3) what the cost will be for the British contribution to the EU-led anti-piracy mission off the Horn of Africa; and whether the Athena mechanism will be used to determine costs; [228406]

(4) what the legal basis is for the EU-led anti-piracy mission off the Horn of Africa. [228407]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have supported EU planning for a counter-piracy naval operation off the coast of Somalia. A formal legal decision from the EU member states to act, but not yet to launch the operation, is expected in the next 10 days.

This will be based on a UK offer to provide the Operation Commander and Operation HQ. No decisions have been taken on the command structure relating to the Forward Headquarters, although we have made it clear that any European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) operation needs to ensure maximum co-ordination with Combined Task Force 150, Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa and NATO.

The legal basis for the EU-led mission will be a Joint Action adopted under Articles 14, 25 and 28 of the Treaty of European Union, to support resolutions 1814/2008, 1816/2008 and 1838/2008 of the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Force generation for the operation will not begin until EU Ministers have agreed to act. We intend to offer a Royal Navy frigate for part of the ESDP operation, but the timing and detail will be subject to ESDP force generation requirements and UK operational priorities. EU planning envisages an operation lasting one year from the declaration of Initial Operating Capability by the Operation Commander.

The cost of this mission to the United Kingdom comprises two elements. The first is the common costs, which are determined by the Athena mechanism. The common costs will include the cost to set up the Operation Headquarters and the Force Headquarters. The second element is national costs associated with any ship deployment. Until further planning has been completed it will not be possible to determine the cost of the British contribution to any potential ESDP operation to tackle piracy.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether representatives of the British Army and representatives of the Mahdi Army entered into any agreement or accommodation in respect of military engagement in Iraq during 2007. [228803]

Mr. Hutton: UK forces are operating in Iraq as part of a multi-national coalition at the request of the Iraqi Government. The coalition and the Iraqi Government have routinely followed a policy of dialogue with insurgent groups, where it is judged they can be persuaded to renounce violence and participate in the legitimate political process. The offer of engagement is open to groups across the political spectrum and it has been an essential element of the counter-insurgency strategy to bring peace and security to Iraq.

In 2007, with the full knowledge and support both of our coalition partners and the Iraqi Government, UK forces conducted a dialogue with a range of militia leaders in Basra—including Jaish al-Mahdi—in accordance with the Iraq-wide reconciliation strategy. Neither these discussions, nor their outcome, prevented UK forces from providing military support to the Iraqi Security Forces.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar, *(e)* VC-10 and *(f)* Nimrod aircraft are (i) in service, (ii) in the forward fleet and (iii) fit for purpose. [226994]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested for C-17, C-130 Hercules, Tristar, VC10 and Nimrod aircraft that are in service, in the forward fleet (FF) and considered fit for purpose (FFP) is provided in the following table. 'In service' has been taken to mean the effective fleet which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. Aircraft in the FF are those that are available to the front line command for operational and training purposes including those that are classed as short-term unserviceable aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, or planned routine fleet maintenance are not included. Aircraft defined as FFP are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date. The FF and FFP figures shown are the latest available, provided as an average for September 2008, and have been rounded tô the nearest whole number.

	Total Fleet	*In service*	*Percentage of Total Fleet that is in service*	*Number in FF*	*Percentage of in service aircraft in FF*	*Number of aircraft FFP*	*Percentage of FF aircraft which are FFP*
C-17 Globemaster	6	6	100	6	100	5	83
C-130K Hercules	19	18	74	12	63	10	83
C-130J Hercules	24	24	100	19	79	14	74
Tristar	9	9	100	7	78	4	57
VC-10	16	15	94	13	87	8	62
Nimrod MR2	15	14	93	8	57	5	63
Nimrod R1	3	3	100	1	33	1	100

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* Nimrod, *(b)* Harrier, *(c)* Tornado GR4, *(d)* Tornado F3 and *(e)* Typhoon aircraft are (i) in service, (ii) in the forward fleet and (iii) fit for purpose. [226995]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested for Nimrod, Harrier, Tornado GR4, Tornado F3 and Typhoon aircraft that are in service, in the forward fleet (FF) and considered fit for purpose (FFP) is provided in the following table. 'In service' has been taken to mean the effective fleet which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. FF aircraft are those that are available to the front line command for operational and training purposes including those that are classed as 'short-term unserviceable'; aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, or planned routine fleet maintenance are not included. Aircraft defined as FFP are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date. The figures shown are a snapshot for the 30 September, except where stated, and have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Aircraft	*Fleet number*	*In service*	*Percentage of total fleet in service*	*Number in FF*	*Percent of total in FF*	*Number of aircraft FFP*	*Percentage of FF aircraft which are FFP*
Nimrod MR2[1]	15	14	93	8	57	5	63
Nimrod R1[1]	3	3	100	1	33	1	100
Harrier	75	75	100	47	63	36	77
Tornado GR4	138	138	100	95	69	57	60
Tornado F3	71	71	100	47	66	32	68
Typhoon	49	49	100	34	69	29	85

[1] Figures are average for September 2008.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many days on average a *(a)* Hercules C-130, *(b)* Tristar, *(c)* VC-10 and *(d)* C-17 Globemaster was (i) on operations, (ii) engaged in non-operational flying, (iii) available but not flown, (iv) in scheduled maintenance, (v) undergoing other repair activity, (vi) undergoing unscheduled maintenance, (vii) awaiting spares and (viii) not worked in each of the last three years. [230172]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* Chinook, *(b)* Merlin and *(c)* Sea King helicopters are (i) in service, (ii) fit for purpose and (iii) out of service. [226903]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The percentages of the *(a)* Chinook, *(b)* Merlin and *(c)* Sea King helicopters considered (i) in service, (ii) fit for purpose and (iii) out of service are detailed in the following table. 'In service' has been taken to mean the effective fleet which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. Fit for purpose aircraft are those in the forward fleet considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date. Aircraft in the forward fleet are those that are available to the front line command for operational and training purposes, including those that are classed as 'short-term unserviceable': aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, or planned routine fleet maintenance are excluded. 'Out of service' has been taken to mean the non-effective fleet, which covers those aircraft that are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal.

The following figures are for averages for the month of August 2008.

	August 2008		
	In service aircraft as a percentage of total fleet	*Fit for purpose aircraft as a percentage of forward fleet*	*Out of service aircraft as a percentage of total fleet*
Chinook 2/2a[1]	100	72	0
Merlin Mk1[1]	100	44	0
Merlin Mk3/3a[1]	100	59	0
Sea King Mk5	100	55	0
Sea King Mk7	100	44	0
Sea King Mk4/6C[1]	100	59	0
Sea King Mk3/3a	100	47	0

[1] Deployed on operations.

The number of helicopters fit for purpose will vary from day to day due, primarily, to routine maintenance requirements. Operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available. All rotary wing operational requirements are currently being met.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of helicopters in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Fleet Air Arm and *(c)* Royal Air Forces are (i) in service, (ii) in the forward fleet and (iii) fit for purpose, broken down by helicopter type. [226996]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The numbers and types of helicopters used by the Army Air Corps, Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force which are in service, in the forward fleet and considered fit for purpose are detailed in the following table. "In service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. Aircraft in the "forward fleet" are those that are available to the front line command for operational and training purposes, including those that are classed as "short-term unserviceable": aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, or planned routine fleet maintenance are excluded. Fit for purpose aircraft are those in the forward fleet considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date.

The following figures represent averages taken for August 2008.

	Total fleet	*In service*	*Percentage of total fleet that is in service*	*Number in forward fleet*	*Percentage of in service aircraft that is in the forward fleet*	*Number fit for purpose*	*Percentage of forward fleet fit aircraft that is for purpose*
Royal Navy							
Lynx Mk3/8	71	63	89	43	68	28	65
Sea King Mk5	15	15	100	11	73	6	55
Sea King Mk7	13	13	100	10	77	4	40
Sea King Mk4/6C[1]	42	42	100	29	69	17	59
Merlin Mkl[1]	42	42	100	22	52	10	45
Army Air Corps							
A109	4	4	100	4	100	3	75
Apache[1]	67	67	100	50	75	20	40
Gazelle	98	56	57	46	82	37	80
Lynx Mk7/9[1]	109	96	88	61	64	36	59
Royal Air Force							
Merlin Mk3/3a[1]	28	28	100	17	61	10	59
Puma[1]	43	32	74	24	75	16	67
Chinook 2/2a[1]	40	40	100	29	73	21	72
Sea King Mk3/3a	25	25	100	17	68	8	47

[1] Deployed on operations.

The number of helicopters fit for purpose will vary from day to day due, primarily, to routine maintenance requirements. Operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available. All rotary wing operational requirements are currently being met.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of helicopters used by British armed forces was contracted from private operators in the latest period for which figures are available. [227976]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In financial year 2007-08 the proportion of helicopters contracted from private operators was 9.6 per cent.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of the *(a)* Tranche 3 Typhoon, *(b)* Joint Strike Fighter and *(c)* A300M have been (i) ordered and (ii) delivered. [229979]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The number of aircraft which have been ordered and delivered is as follows:

Typhoon Tranche 3:

Negotiations with partner nations and industry are continuing and decisions will be taken once these negotiations are complete.

Joint Strike Fighter:

None.

A400M:

The UK has ordered 25 A400M aircraft. No deliveries have been made to date.

Military Aircraft: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training sorties for the *(a)* Hercules C-130, *(b)* Tristar, *(c)* VC-10 and *(d)* C-17 Globemaster were cancelled in each year since 2003. [230174]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training flying hours crews of the *(a)* Hercules C-130, *(b)* Tristar, *(c)* VC-10 and *(d)* C-17 Globemaster aircraft flew on average in each year since 2001. [230175]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether US personnel will be asked to participate in his Department's work on the Warhead Pre-Concept Working Group; [228902]

(2) whether the Warhead Pre-Concept Working Group has considered options for *(a)* agent defeat and *(b)* other warhead modifications, as part of its work; [228903]

(3) whether work emerging from the *(a)* theoretical enhanced radiation and *(b)* residual enhanced radiation weapon warhead concept have been examined as part of the work of the Warhead Pre-Concept Working Group; and whether personnel at AWE Aldermaston have been briefed on these or other advanced nuclear weapons concepts by their US counterparts in the last three years. [228904]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave him on 28 November 2007, *Official Report, column* 453W from which he will be aware that research is currently being undertaken in support of the detailed review described in paragraph 7-4 of the December 2006 White Paper: The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cmd 6994). This review, which was previously overseen by the Warhead Pre-Concept Working Group (WPCWG) is now being co-ordinated by the Atomic Weapons Establishment within their systems engineering management structure under the direction of the Ministry of Defence. It is examining both the optimum life of the UK's existing nuclear warhead stockpile and the range of replacement options that might be available to inform decisions on whether and how we may need to refurbish or replace the existing warhead likely to be necessary in the next Parliament. Some of the work included in this review is being undertaken in co-operation with the US and with the assistance of US personnel under the 1958 UK-US Agreement for Co-operation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence Purposes.

I am withholding further details of this ongoing review and related discussions held with the US under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement in the interests of national security.

Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel have been diagnosed with *(a)* heatstroke and *(b)* other heat-related illness in Iraq since 2003; [209647]

(2) how many service personnel have been diagnosed with *(a)* heatstroke and *(b)* other heat-related illness in Afghanistan since 2001. [209648]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence records instances of heat illness, as part of its monitoring of climatic injury. Heat illness has traditionally been divided into heat exhaustion and heat stroke, but in practice it is difficult to define the division between the two. Heat illness is therefore used to cover a continuum of illness ranging from mild symptoms such as muscular weakness, headache and excess fatigue to more serious outcomes such as collapse, coma and death.

The following table shows the instances of heat illness that have required attendance at a Field Hospital for Operation Telic since 2003 and Operation Herrick since reporting began in August 2006:

	Operation Telic	*Operation Herrick*
2003	804	n/a
2004	130	n/a
2005	62	n/a
2006	99	[1]19
2007	107	62
2008[2]	2	5

[1] Data collection did not begin in Afghanistan until August 2006.

[2] 1 January to 31 March 2008.

This table updates the figures for 2006 and 2007 given in a previous answer to a question on heat related illness—21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1637W. Both sets of figures were provided by Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA); however the numbers in the earlier answer were based on field hospital admissions records. The data in this answer have been extracted from the Operational Emergency Department Attendance register (OpEDAR). As OpEDAR covers all attendances, regardless of whether they are admitted, DASA has advised that it provides a more comprehensive figure for heat illness.

These figures provide an indication of instances of heat illness. It is likely that there have been other cases of heat injury which could not be identifed from the available records as they may have been recorded under a variety of symptoms (e.g. dehydration, headache etc.) common to other illnesses. In Iraq, the temperature and humidity can change very quickly, increasing the likelihood of sudden instances of heat illness.

Various steps are taken to prevent heat related illnesses. Commanders are provided with heat illness prevention instructions in order to monitor heat stress. Temperature and humidity levels are forecast daily as part of standard operating procedures thereby allowing commanders to schedule workloads accordingly. Where operationally feasible, although clearly this will not be possible in every single location, air conditioning is used in accommodation, business offices and facilities such as welfare, catering and medical facilities in the main camps in operational theatres. Canteen areas have large fridges which are stocked with a plentiful supply of cold water.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what priority is accorded to post and parcels in shipping goods from the UK to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan for service personnel. [230162]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Mail for HM armed forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan is afforded the highest possible priority behind essential supplies such as water, food, medical supplies and ammunition.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the primary means for transporting post and parcels from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Germany to (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan is. [230164]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The primary means for transporting post and parcels from the UK and Germany to Iraq and Afghanistan is by military chartered or RAF aircraft.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on transporting post and parcels from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Germany to (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan since 2001. [230165]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Post and parcels sent to Iraq and Afghanistan are transported by RAF and military chartered aircraft. They travel as part of variable mixed loads and the individual cost of each consignment is not recorded.

Royal Military Academy

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is routine procedure for approval of overseas military personnel attending military courses at Sandhurst to be required from Ministers in his Department; when the procedures for considering applications for such training were last reviewed; and whether any changes were made. [230787]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not routine procedure for ministerial approval to be sought for the attendance of overseas military personnel at Sandhurst when engagement with a cadet's host nation is consistent with pan-Whitehall strategy.

All applications for training at Sandhurst are reviewed, and will continue to be reviewed, on a continuous basis by the appropriate policy staff in MOD, and there has been no change to the role of Ministers in this process.

Russia: NATO

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has had discussions with its NATO counterparts on possible military co-operation with the Russian Federation in Afghanistan. [229458]

Mr. Hutton: At a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council at Defence Ministerial level on 13 June, Russia's support to the Alliance's mission in Afghanistan was widely welcomed, although Russia made it clear this support stopped short of direct military intervention. The support includes transit arrangements through Russian territory in support of the International Security Assistance Force, and a NATO-Russia Council project on counter-narcotics training for Afghan and Central Asian personnel. In the wake of the crisis in Georgia this summer, discussions between NATO and Russia have slowed, but the UK is working to keep open avenues for operational co-operation where that is in NATO's interests.

USA: Military Bases

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what use is made of RAF Molesworth in the US Africom programme. [229412]

Mr. Hutton: US personnel at the Joint Analysis Centre at RAF Molesworth provide intelligence analysis capabilities for the US Africa Command.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an operational certificate has been issued by the US Administration for the space-based infra-red system at RAF Menwith Hill. [229413]

Mr. Hutton: RAF Menwith Hill houses a satellite ground terminal which receives data from the space-based infra-red system (SBIRS) satellites to be routed to the US for the purposes of both missile early warning and ballistic missile defence. The use of RAF Menwith Hill as a relay link for the SBIRS has been agreed between the UK and US Governments. As both the satellite system and the ground terminal at RAF Menwith Hill are owned and operated by the US Government, we hold no information on the operational certification for the SBIRS.

War Graves

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps would need to be taken to extend the Commonwealth War Graves Commission dates of commemoration from 31 December 1947. [229277]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is an independent, internationally funded body established by Royal Charter which defines the Commission's dates for commemoration. Her Majesty's Government have no direct control over its activities.

Responsibility for the commemoration of UK armed forces personnel who, from 1 January 1948, die in service and who receive a service-funded funeral rests with the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Their graves are maintained in perpetuity by the Department.

War Graves: Educational Visits

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to discuss increasing opportunities for schoolchildren to visit British war graves. [229248]

Mr. Kevan Jones: With the study of both world wars embedded in the curricula, many schools now incorporate a visit to war cemeteries as part of their learning activities. Organisations such as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Royal British Legion and the Imperial War Museum have schemes to facilitate visits of this nature; therefore I have no current plans to meet with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to discuss this issue.

World War II: Medals

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in Bexley were awarded a veteran's badge in each year since the inception of the award. [228243]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format that identifies how many HM armed forces veterans badges have been issued in Bexley. However, we have identified from our database that a total number of 473 residents who have included Bexley in their address have applied for and received their veterans lapel badge.

Between May 2004 and 30 September 2008 over 664,000 HM armed forces veterans lapel badges have been issued. In addition veterans lapel badges are now awarded to service personnel as they leave the services.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Discharges

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of emergency patients were discharged within a day in each of the last five years. [228987]

Mr. Bradshaw: The available information is provided in the following table.

	Number of discharges on same date as admission	*Proportion of total discharges (Percentage)*	*Number of discharges on the next date from admission*	*Proportion of total discharges (Percentage)*
2002-03	671,049	16.79	774,595	19.38
2003-04	770,135	18.08	850,062	19.96
2004-05	929,509	20.65	924,538	20.54
2005-06	1,119,251	23.61	983,669	20.75
2006-07	1,201,320	25.05	1,023,988	21.35

Notes

Quality of care:

Data derived from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) cannot be used in isolation to evaluate the quality of care provided by NHS trusts. There are many factors that can affect the outcome of treatment and it is beyond the scope of HES to adequately record and present all of these.

Ungrossed data:

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Discharges:

A discharge episode is the last episode during a hospital stay (a spell), where the patient is discharged from the hospital (this includes transfer to another hospital).

Data Quality:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time:

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Length of stay (duration of episode)/Length of stay (duration of spell):

Length of stay (LOS) is calculated as the difference in days between the admission date and the discharge date, where both are given. LOS is based on hospital spells and only applies to ordinary admissions, i.e. day cases are excluded (unless otherwise stated). Information relating to LOS figures, including discharge method/destination, diagnoses and any operative procedures, is based only on the final episode of the spell.

These data are restricted to discharge episodes which had the following types of admission method.

21 = Emergency: via accident and emergency (A&E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
22 = Emergency: via general practitioner (GP)
23 = Emergency: via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau
24 = Emergency: via consultant out-patient clinic
28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another health care provider

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Ageing

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to promote healthy ageing in the last 10 years. [228012]

Phil Hope: Over the last decade, the Department has developed a number of policy initiatives, which has increased the focus on supporting the health and well-being of the elderly population, such as the "National Service Framework for Older People" (2001). This was followed by "Better Health in Old Age" (2004) and "A new ambition for old age" (2006) which has a focus on active ageing. These documents have already been placed in the Library.

The Department has also provided £60 million funding through the Partnerships for Older People Projects programme to improve care of older people by local councils, to stay healthy, active and independent in their old age.

In May 2008 the Department announced a prevention package for older people which will be developed to address the challenge of providing improved and better preventative care for older people.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether responsibility messages, unit labelling and other such information should be on the bottle or can or on the disposable outer packaging in which bottles and cans are packaged under the terms of the voluntary alcohol labelling agreement. [228138]

Dawn Primarolo: The voluntary alcohol labelling agreement, to include unit content, daily guidelines, and other information on most alcohol labels by the end of 2008, applies as a primary requirement to labels on the bottle or can, since consumers should receive a reminder of the information more often and closer to the point of consumption.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals have made more than one submission to his Department's consultation on the alcohol strategy. [229708]

Dawn Primarolo: Although the consultation period, 22 July to 14 October 2008, has ended, we are logging and analysing responses. Therefore, it is not possible to answer the question at this stage. However, we are not aware of individuals sending multiple responses to the consultation.

Annual Health Check

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing the recommendations of the report of the Healthcare Commission in 2007-08 entitled Annual Health Check. [229724]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check reports progress made by national health service organisations. It does not make recommendations.

Blood: Contamination

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS patients who received infected blood products in each year since 1992. [229594]

Dawn Primarolo: Joint surveillance by NHS Blood and Transplant and the Health Protection Agency of transfusion transmitted infections began on 1 October 1995. Data are collated on transmission of viruses and bacteria. Since October 1995 the confirmed number of patients who have received infected blood products is 61. A further two infections were reported since October 1995 relating to transfusions that occurred in 1991. Complete data for the years between 1992 and 1995 are not available.

Patients receiving infected blood products

	Number
1995	3
1996	6
1997	8
1998	5
1999	7
2000	9
2001	5
2002	3
2003	5
2004	1
2005	4
2006	2
2007	3

Dementia: Drugs

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of patients with dementia who have been given neuroleptic sedatives in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [229246]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected by the Department.

Dementia: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what analysis his Department has undertaken of the funding required to implement the draft National Dementia Strategy for England. [225813]

Phil Hope: A draft of a National Dementia Strategy was published on 19 June for consultation and copies have already been placed in the Library. The consultation closed on 11 September and we are currently considering carefully all the responses received before deciding the final shape of the strategy, and then we will analyse what resources are available to support its implementation. Funding will be announced around the same time the strategy is published.

Departmental Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's resource accounts for 2007-08. [228873]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's resource accounts for 2007-08 were laid before Parliament on the 9 October 2008, HC 1042.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228422]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department spent the following on upgrading its information technology infrastructure over the last three years:

	£
2007-08	
Revenue spend	427,000
Capital spend	4,069,000
2006-07	
Revenue spend	343,000
Capital spend	3,123,000
2005-06	
Revenue spend	740,000
Capital spend	6,100,000

Departmental Lost Property

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of documents sent to external bodies by his Department were lost in the post in the latest period for which information is available. [229657]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on buying advertising space on the Jeremy Kyle show to date in 2008. [227804]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: In the course of 2008, (up to 30 September), the Department has spent £309,318 buying space within advertising breaks on the Jeremy Kyle show.

The following table shows the spend on advertising on the Jeremy Kyle show by campaign.

Campaign	*Spend (£)*
Anti Smoking	116,951
Child Immunisation	3,503
Social Care	11,157
Tobacco Send Off	102,675
Alcohol Awareness	15,460
Tobacco Motivation	53,299
Tobacco Lead Generation	6,273

Departmental Pay

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in bonuses to staff in his Department in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the largest single payment was. [226855]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amount paid in bonuses to staff in the last year was £2,423,701. The largest single payment was £27,500.

Special bonuses can be awarded to any member of staff in recognition of work beyond their normal range of duties. Annual bonuses are paid to staff who are members of the senior civil service (SCS), based on the extent to which objectives are met, how they are met and how stretching they are. The figures provided here cover special bonuses for the year from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008, and annual SCS bonuses awarded in 2008. The largest single payment was an annual SCS bonus.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229533]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on membership of pension schemes by civil servants in the Department is in the following table:

	Classic		*Premium and Classic Plus*		*Nuvos*		
Organisation	*Number*	*Proportion (%)*	*Number*	*Proportion (%)*	*Number*	*Proportion (%)*	*Total*
Core Department	1,562	67.1	637	27.4	130	5.6	2,329
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	366	43.0	370	43.5	115	13.6	851
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	157	63.3	73	29.0	22	8.7	252

Note:
The percentage figures in rows of the table do not always sum to 100 because of rounding. Separate figures on Premium and Classic Plus schemes are not available

Departmental Public Expenditure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* private finance initiative and *(b)* local improvement finance trust schemes his Department is planning which are not yet operational; what the (i) monetary value of the contract and (ii) equity partners are in each case; and what his most recent assessment is of each such scheme's viability. [229467]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on private finance initiative (PFI) and local improvement finance trust (LIFT) schemes under construction (i.e. not yet operational) with their respective capital values and equity partners has been placed in the Library.

The LIFT schemes shown in the Library document are those currently under construction. The planning of LIFT schemes is a local responsibility, and while the Department is aware that many LIFT schemes are currently being planned, it does not hold a comprehensive record of these potential schemes.

PFI schemes in the planning stage, either actively preparing an initial outline business case or currently in procurement, are shown in the following table.

Commissioning body	*OBC approved/to be approved*	*Estimated total capital value (£ millions)*
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	2009	143
North Bristol/South Gloucestershire PCTs	May 2007 Financial close not expected within next 12 months	475
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	End of 2008/ Beginning 2009	61
Sandwell and West Birmingham Acute NHS Trust	2009	368

Commissioning body	*OBC approved/to be approved*	*Estimated total capital value (£ millions)*
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2010	280
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	2010	110
Papworth Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	End of 2008/ beginning 2009	125
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust	2009	235
Mersey Care NHS trust	2009	170
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	2009	477
Birmingham and Solihull MH Trust (Yardley Green)	2009	45

Once an NHS body has signed a PR or LIFT contract, the financial terms of the loan raised by the private sector consortium counterparty are set and fixed. The overall cost of the project to the NHS will not change (unless the NHS wants to make a change to its own requirements). PFI contracts deal comprehensively with the possibility of early termination due to contractor default, including through insolvency, in order to protect the public interest.

The Government's policy continues to be that PFI, LIFT and other public-private partnerships should be used to deliver public services when this offers value for money. This is assessed on a case by case basis at the appropriate approval point for each scheme.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what support is being provided by the Food Standards Agency and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to help the Governments of the Crown Dependencies bring forward measures to meet obligations to comply with European legislation on food supplements and herbal remedies; [228576]

(2) when Ministers in his Department last discussed with the Governments of the Channel Islands concerns about the import to the United Kingdom of food supplements and herbal remedies marketed using claims which would be illegal where the products to have been placed directly on the United Kingdom market; and what the outcome was of those discussions; [228577]

(3) how many adjudications have been made by the Advertising Standards Authority in relation to complaints about the making of illegal claims in the marketing of food supplements and herbal remedies from the Channel Islands; what assessment he has made of the such adjudications; and if he will make a statement. [228578]

Dawn Primarolo: A meeting was held on 11 April 2008 between officials from the Food Standards Agency, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the Ministry of Justice and representatives of the Crown Dependencies, at which the UK offered support to the Crown Dependencies to assist with the implementation of relevant European legislation on food supplements.

Separately, the MHRA has provided considerable support to the Government of Guernsey by reviewing Guernsey's proposed medicines law to identify those areas which require additional legislation to implement Directive 2001/83/EC on medicinal products and by providing advice as necessary. The MHRA expects to provide the same review and advice assistance to the other Crown Dependencies as they bring forward their measures to implement the Medicines Directive.

Health Ministers have not raised these matters directly with Governments of the Channel Islands. The Ministry of Justice provides the official channel of communication between the UK and the Crown Dependencies and in late 2007 and early 2008 separate meetings took place between the Chief Executives of the three Crown Dependencies and the Minister of State for Justice during which these matters were discussed.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) is an independent body set up by the advertising industry to police the rules laid down in two advertising codes. These codes are the responsibility of two industry Committees of Advertising Practice—CAP (Broadcast) and CAP (Non-broadcast), and are independently administered by the ASA. As such, the information could only be obtained from the ASA.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the use of suboxone instead of methadone or subutex in prisons. [229880]

Phil Hope: Suboxone, methadone and subutex are available on the national health service. The decision to use any drug is a clinical one, taken in the community or in prison following consultation with the patient about their clinical needs and priorities.

In January 2007 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published the Technology Appraisal "Methadone and buprenorphine for managing opioid dependence", which recommended the use of both methadone and buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid dependence. Such treatments must be funded and provided within the NHS in line with NICE recommendations. However, this appraisal did not consider suboxone which combines buprenorphine and naloxone and subutex which is buprenorphine only, as newer products.

Advice on prescribing of suboxone is contained in "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management", which was published jointly by the Department of Health and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse in September 2007. This has already been placed in the Library and can be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Substancemisuse/Substancemisusegeneralinformation/DH_4064342

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of whether suboxone has advantages in terms of reduced potential for diversion and reduced chance of overdose compared with other anti-opiate therapies. [229881]

Dawn Primarolo: Suboxone takes the form of a tablet to be placed under the tongue. It is a combination of buprenorphine hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride, used in the treatment of opioid dependence.

Buprenorphine stimulates the effects of opioids, such as heroin, and naloxone blocks the effects of opioids.

Suboxone has been designed to limit the potential for its misuse. When it is taken as prescribed, under the tongue, the naloxone has no effect, but if it is misused and injected the naloxone becomes activated and causes withdrawal symptoms, which makes the drug unattractive for misuse.

The decision to use suboxone is a clinical one and is taken following consultation with the patient about their clinical needs and priorities. This principle applies in prisons and the community alike. In prisons all prescribed doses of controlled drugs such as buprenorphine-based drugs and of methadone are administered under closely supervised conditions.

Advice on prescribing of suboxone is contained in "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management", which was published jointly by the Department and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse in September 2007. A copy has been placed in the Library and can also be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Substancemisuse/Substancemisusegeneralinformation/DH_4064342

Eculizumab

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assist primary care trusts with the funding of eculizumab; and if he will make a statement; [228829]

(2) how many primary care trusts in England and Wales are funding the use of eculizumab in the treatment of paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria; [228830]

(3) which primary care trusts in England and Wales have refused to fund the use of eculizumab in the treatment of paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria on the grounds of cost-effectiveness. [228831]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Public Health made a written ministerial statement on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 16-17WS, setting out the current position for the NHS commissioning of patients with paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria (PNH). The National Specialised Commissioning team are making good progress with arrangements to ensure that all patients who require the drug eculizumab before the national commissioning starts on 1 April 2009 will receive it.

The National Assembly for Wales will look at the position for PNH patients in Wales.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 411WA, on general practitioners, how many examples his Department received from members of the public; and to which primary care trusts these examples related. [228249]

Mr. Bradshaw: A standard search of departmental records has identified three letters and a further 12 items of electronic correspondence that mention examples of 'gentlemen's agreements'.

There may be further examples that allude to this issue but do not use the term 'gentlemen's agreement'. Identifying any such cases would be disproportionately expensive.

The address of the correspondents cannot be identified on all the electronic correspondence. However, we can identify the address of the correspondent in 14 cases. These addresses were in the area of the following primary care trusts (PCTs).

Barnet PCT
Buckinghamshire PCT
Devon PCT
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT
Leicester and Rutland PCT
Lincolnshire PCT (2)
South Essex PCT
Surrey PCT
Western Cheshire PCT
Warwickshire PCT (2)
Trafford PCT

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data returns his Department plans to collect from *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts to assess levels of implementation of the programme for a new GP-led health centre in each area. [229964]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are asked to provide a monthly update on progress against national procurement milestones, confirmation of compliance with departmental core criteria, the expected date of service commencement, and where known, the postcode of the service location. This information is provided by PCTs, and signed off by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

In addition, we have ad hoc discussions with SHAs on any issues arising.

Health Services: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per head on health services in *(a)* Peterborough, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [229452]

Mr. Bradshaw: Expenditure per unweighted head of population in 2007-08 was: *(a)* Peterborough £1,130.62, *(b)* Cambridgeshire £1,274.48, and *(c)* England £1,539.88

Spend in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire is based on the net operating cost reported by Peterborough Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Cambridgeshire PCT respectively. This does not include all expenditure as the majority of pharmaceutical services expenditure is accounted for by the NHS Business Services Authority rather than by PCTs.

The England figure is the total net operating costs of all PCTs and all strategic health authorities plus the national spend on pharmaceutical services. It is not directly comparable with the spend per head at the individual PCT level.

Spend figures are from the audited financial monitoring and accounts forms for the relevant NHS bodies.

Population figures are ONS 2007 estimates.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per head on health services in *(a)* the Mid Essex Hospital Trust area, *(b)* the North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust area and *(c)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [229884]

Mr. Bradshaw: Expenditure per head of population cannot be calculated for national health service trusts as they do not cover specific areas and may receive income from commissioners throughout England.

In 2007-08, the spend per unweighted head on health services in England was £1,539.88.

The England expenditure figure includes the total net operating costs of all primary care trusts and all strategic health authorities plus the national spend on pharmaceutical services.

Population figures are Office for National Statistics 2007 estimates.

Health Services: South West

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the overall measurable NHS spending is per local resident in *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust within the South West Strategic Health Authority in each financial year from 1997 to 2007. [230978]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service spend per unweighted head of population in England since 1997 is shown in table 1.

Table 1: All England spend per head

	£
1997-98	647.37
1998-99	673.19
1999-2000	755.00
2000-01	789.15
2001-02	815.12
2002-03	991.07
2003-04	1,116.32
2004-05	1,236.10
2005-06	1,334.99
2006-07	1,393.93
2007-08	1,539.88

NHS spend per unweighted head of population in primary care trusts (PCTs) in the South West Strategic Health Authority is shown in table 2 for years 2001-02 to 2005-06 and in table 3 for 2006-07 and 2007-08. Accounts figures by individual NHS body are not available prior to 2001-02.

Table 2: Spend per head in primary care trusts 2001-02 to 2005-06

£

PCT name	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	809.25	941.11	1,029.49	1,108.43	1,142.61
Bournemouth Teaching PCT	662.81	1,005.99	1,044.17	1,176.97	1,255.52
Bristol North PCT	n/a	1,021.85	1,274.36	1,308.71	1,416.95
Bristol South and West PCT	n/a	1,097.65	1,101.44	1,177.31	1,349.49
Carrick PCT	609.29	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Central Cornwall PCT	n/a	1,008.72	1,000.02	1,117.75	1,216.86
Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT	n/a	789.26	879.85	936.87	1,156.06
Cotswold and Vale PCT	n/a	852.59	938.83	1,096.06	1,160.83
East Devon PCT	570.09	926.90	1,045.46	1,294.20	1,311.34
Exeter PCT	666.21	860.64	973.62	1,000.07	1,287.23
Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT	n/a	833.53	891.53	978.22	1,095.00
Mendip PCT	667.10	772.92	862.57	1,004.95	1,111.55
Mid Devon PCT	577.22	917.69	915.63	1,139.23	1,206.12
North and East Cornwall PCT	n/a	927.33	947.02	1,092.12	1,204.57
North Devon PCT	626.28	914.76	978.39	1,091.49	1,186.51
North Dorset PCT	798.53	923.22	900.52	1,039.52	1,138.58
North Somerset PCT	n/a	871.79	937.77	1,068.31	1,145.30
Plymouth Teaching PCT	734.27	1,006.02	1,035.17	1,170.23	1,280.85
Poole PCT	n/a	812.82	1,009.61	1,157.59	1,265.59
Poole Bay PCT	624.86	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Poole Central and North PCT	660.80	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Somerset Coast PCT	658.13	834.75	903.77	1,034.67	1,147.47
South and East Dorset PCT	749.93	1,021.48	1,021.62	1,135.04	1,222.03
South Gloucestershire PCT	781.49	785.11	904.17	1,003.60	1,055.93
South Hams and West Devon PCT	741.74	757.02	977.63	1,112.67	1,181.88
South Somerset PCT	n/a	941.49	978.66	1,095.31	1,169.82
South West Dorset PCT	667.73	925.15	995.16	1,149.13	1,217.50
South Wiltshire PCT	764.13	936.97	940.29	1,070.26	1,171.72
Swindon PCT	n/a	924.99	1,087.42	1,108.43	1,178.02
Taunton Deane PCT	n/a	881.51	994.49	1,086.69	1,208.73
Teignbridge PCT	724.59	920.00	988.65	1,176.75	1,254.03
Torbay PCT	713.05	1,095.95	1,069.49	1,194.69	1,303.47
West Gloucestershire PCT	n/a	881.42	965.54	1,125.89	1,215.48
West of Cornwall PCT	597.82	922.73	1,027.08	1,161.04	1,269.62
West Wiltshire PCT	663.41	806.19	858.43	970.43	1,084.48

Table 3: Spend per head in Primary Care Trusts 2006-07 to 2007-08

£

PCT name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1,178.32	1,271.20
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	1,295.07	1,397.54

Table 3: Spend per head in Primary Care Trusts 2006-07 to 2007-08

£

PCT name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bristol PCT	1,360.55	1,542.74
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1,240.05	1,417.12
Devon PCT	1,286.92	1,410.25
Dorset PCT	1,248.86	1,371.87
Gloucestershire PCT	1,190.68	1,297.50
North Somerset PCT	1,243.56	1,381.53
Plymouth Teaching PCT	1,382.88	1,497.40
Somerset PCT	1,229.22	1,337.75
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,170.28	1,254.85
Swindon PCT	1,200.43	1,322.45
Torbay Care PCT	1,358.22	1,543.58
Wiltshire PCT	1,136.41	1,200.34

Notes:

1. The England figure includes expenditure reported in the audited health authority and strategic health authority summarisation schedules for 1997-98 to 2007-08, plus the audited PCT summarisation schedules 2001-02 to 2007-08 and the dental and pharmaceutical services expenditure for England reported by the former Dental Practice Board and Prescription Pricing Authority and the current NHS Business Services Authority.
2. PCT expenditure is from the audited summarisation schedules 2001-02 to 2007-08.
3. Population figures are ONS estimates 1997-98 to 2007-08.
4. Note that the expenditure reported by PCTs does not represent all NHS spending, e.g. strategic health authority and dental and pharmaceutical services expenditure is not included, therefore figures for the PCTs are not comparable with the all England totals.
5. Two tables have been provided for the PCTs owing to the reorganisation of the NHS in 2006 resulting in mainly new merged PCTs.

Hepatitis

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of prevalence of hepatitis B in each primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [229590]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of hepatitis B prevalence at primary care trust level are not available. The Department estimates that about 0.3 per cent. of the United Kingdom population is chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (about 180,000 people).

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to commission research in the next 12 months on the anticipated incidence of all types of chronic hepatitis B over the next decade; and if he will make a statement. [229591]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medical Research Council funds a portfolio of basic and underpinning research relating to chronic hepatitis B, which may lead to further understanding of the condition. Research specifically related to the anticipated incidence of chronic hepatitis B over the next decade in this country is not currently being funded.

The Health Protection Agency gathers information on a sample proportion of persons in the United Kingdom infected with and affected by chronic viral hepatitis as part of its remit for monitoring infectious disease in this country. This information includes analysis of hepatitis B virus both for definition of the type and for evidence of drug resistance.

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many notifications there were for *(a)* hepatitis A, *(b)* chronic hepatitis B, *(c)* hepatitis C, *(d)* hepatitis D, *(e)* hepatitis E, *(f)* hepatitis F, *(g)* hepatitis G and *(h)* hepatitis H in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [229592]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested for hepatitis A, and acute and chronic hepatitis B and C is shown in the following table.

Statutory notifications of hepatitis A, B and C, annual totals, England and Wales: 2000 to 2007

	Hepatitis A notifications	*Hepatitis B notifications*	*Hepatitis C notifications*
2000	1,271	1,035	1,042
2001	1,138	1,028	1,061
2002	1,381	1,073	1,340
2003	1,194	1,151	1,574
2004	784	1,215	1,851
2005	513	1,325	2,120
2006	433	1,165	2,194
2007	333	1,265	2,040

Notes:

1. Viral hepatitis is a notifiable disease. A registered medical practitioner attending a patient is under a statutory requirement to notify cases or suspected cases of viral hepatitis to the proper officer.
2. Data on hepatitis D are not collected. Hepatitis D is a defective virus that replicates only in the presence of the hepatitis B virus.
3. Notifications of hepatitis E are not recorded separately and are included under the category of other viral hepatitis.
4. Hepatitis F is a hypothetical hepatitis virus. Several hepatitis F virus candidates emerged in the 1990s. Further investigations failed to confirm the existence of the virus, and it was delisted as a cause of infectious hepatitis.
5. Data are not routinely collected on hepatitis G. Extensive worldwide investigation has failed to identify any association between the hepatitis G virus and hepatitis, and its clinical significance is unknown.
6. There is currently no virus designated as hepatitis H.

Source:

Health Protection Agency

Home Care Services

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people seeking registration as domiciliary care providers in each region *(a)* met and *(b)* did not meet the required standard at each stage in the registration process in each of the last five years. [229243]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the information requested on how many applications for registration as domiciliary care agencies were successful at each stage of the process is not collected.

The following table shows the numbers of applications for registration which were approved and refused by CSCI or withdrawn by the applicant(s) in each of the last five years.

Service applications for domiciliary care agencies

	Approved	*Refused*	*Withdrawn*
2004-05	739	5	45
2005-06	646	11	32
2006-07	510	4	37
2007-08	526	6	29
2008-09	214	4	18
Total	2,635	30	161

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* healthcare professionals, *(b)* primary care trust representatives, *(c)* strategic health authority representatives, *(d)* patients and *(e)* others responded to the June 2008 consultation on changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement. [230528]

Phil Hope: The Department received 85 formal responses to the June consultation entitled "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care. June 2008". A breakdown is shown in the following table.

Respondent	*Number*
Health care professionals	13
Primary care trust representatives	18
Strategic health authority representatives	0
Patients	16
Others	38
Total	85

Influenza: Vaccination

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received the influenza vaccination in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age group and *(b)* primary care trust. [229566]

Dawn Primarolo: There are two age groups in the influenza vaccination programme; all people aged 65 years and over; those aged under 65 years in a clinical risk group.

This information is contained in the following documents which have been placed in the Library.

Vaccination uptake among the 65 years and over and under 65 years at risk in England 2007-08;

Vaccination uptake among the 65 years and over and under 65 years at risk in England 2006-07;

Influenza vaccine uptake in patients aged 65 years and over and under 65s at risk, England 2005-06; and

Influenza vaccine uptake in patients aged 65 years and over and under 65s at risk, England 2004-05.

Data for the 2008-09 season will be available in the new year.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on reducing the age limit to 60 years for free influenza injections; and if he will make a statement. [229614]

Dawn Primarolo: I can confirm that the Department has received correspondence on this issue and these have been and continue to be responded to, but there have been no recent meetings.

The aim of the influenza immunisation policy is to reduce the serious morbidity and mortality due to influenza by immunising those people most likely to have a severe or complicated illness due to influenza.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) keeps the risk groups recommended influenza vaccination under regular review. This includes the review of risk groups recommended influenza vaccination because of a clinical condition and also the review of the most appropriate age(s) at which to recommend influenza vaccination.

Learning Disability: Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the quality of care provided to patients with learning disabilities; [229878]

(2) what steps the Government plan to take to train NHS medical staff to improve services for patients with learning disabilities. [229879]

Phil Hope: "Promoting Equality" (2007), which has been placed in the Library, sets out the Department's action plan to improve access to and quality of health care for people with learning disabilities. Since then, we have taken a number of steps to improve the NHS's response for people with learning disabilities.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) challenges primary care trusts to take local action to improve the quality of national health service care and equality of access to care for people with learning disabilities. This includes developing and implementing personalised plans to address the health and care needs of people with learning disabilities. We have recently agreed new arrangements for general practitioner practices to provide annual health checks for people with learning disabilities known to local authorities. We have also launched a national awareness and education programme for the NHS about the Disability Equality Duty.

With regard to training for medical staff, the Department is currently considering how best to work with education commissioners and education providers to ensure that training for doctors and other health care professions addresses the needs of people with learning disabilities.

Our forthcoming strategy on learning disabilities will respond in full to the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry on Access to Healthcare for People with Learning Disabilities and will set out further steps to address these issues.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to London local authorities on the provision of move-on accommodation for residents of specialist mental health hostels in London. [230023]

Phil Hope: The Department has not issued any guidance to London local authorities on the provision of move-on accommodation for residents of specialist mental health hostels in London.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has given to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* local authorities in London on (i) the assessment of mental health needs in their catchment areas and (ii) the allocation of appropriate levels of funding. [230027]

Phil Hope: Since 1 April 2008, local authorities and primary care trusts (PCTs) have been under a statutory duty to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to establish the current and future health and wellbeing needs of their population, which includes mental health needs. Guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was published in December 2007, following consultation on the Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing. This has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081097

Responsibility for the provision of all national health service services, including mental health treatments, now rests with PCTs. Decisions about spending on treating specific conditions, including mental health, are made by each PCT and it is for PCTs, in conjunction with their strategic health authorities, to plan and develop services according to the needs of local communities across England.

Mental Health Services: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents of the London Borough of Islington have received assistance for mental illness in each year since 1998; how many in each year received *(a)* GP counselling, *(b)* specialist counselling, *(c)* residence in specialist hostels and *(d)* hospital accommodation; and what estimate he has made of the level of support required in 2008-09. [230026]

Phil Hope: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of finished mental health consultant episodes for patients where the local authority of residence was Islington for each year since 1998 to 2006-07 which are the latest data available.

	Finished consultant episodes
1998-99	1,341
1999-2000	1,268
2000-01	1,135
2001-02	1,151
2002-03	1,060
2003-04	1,123
2004-05	1,166
2005-06	982
2006-07	1,239

Notes:

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE):

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Consultant Main Specialty:

This defines the specialty under which the consultant responsible for care of the patient is contracted. Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information.

Consultant main specialties included:

710 = Mental illness
711 = Child and adolescent psychiatry
712 = Forensic psychiatry
713 = Psychotherapy
715 = Old age psychiatry (available from 1990-91).

Data Quality:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time:

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228547]

Mr. Bradshaw: As prescribed by best practice, the Department uses the social model of disability to monitor adverse/positive impact of its policies. This limits the amount of specific evidence that can be drawn about mental health issues through routine employee monitoring exercises. However, the Department gathers relevant information through analysis of sickness absence statistics; reviews of trends emerging from casework; and regular liaison with the staff disability network. These data are used to inform the development of new policies and the review of those in existence. The policies which directly affect the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illness are those covering recruitment and selection, training and performance management. All policies are equality impact assessed and build in 'reasonable adjustment' provision for people with disabilities, including mental health issues. There is now a separate mental health policy which promotes positive attitudes in this area and provides guidance which is designed to enable employees to remain in the work-place, wherever possible. These policies and processes apply to the Department's agencies.

Mentally Incapacitated: Protection

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the role of the No Secrets Guidance Programme Board is; [228874]

(2) how many times the advisory group established as part of his Department's consultation on the review of guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse has met to date; and what plans there are to convene meetings during the consultation period; [228875]

(3) if he will publish the information collected by his Department during the listening events organised to inform the drafting of the consultation on the proposed review of guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse; [228877]

(4) which Minister authorised the issue of the consultation document on his Department's proposed review of guidance on developing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse; [228879]

(5) what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Scottish Executive officials and *(b)* non-governmental organisations in Scotland on the (i) enactment and (ii) implementation of legislation to protect vulnerable adults. [228915]

Phil Hope: On 16 October 2008, as part of the review of the local safeguarding guidance, "No Secrets", the Government launched a public consultation, "Safeguarding Adults: A consultation on the Review of the 'No Secrets' Guidance". A copy has already been placed in the Library and on the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_089098

The Department is leading the review, but it is a joint consultation document with the Ministry of Justice, the Solicitor General and the Home Office. It is authorised by all four Ministers.

The role of the Programme Board is to oversee the review of "No Secrets", including the consultation. The Advisory Group has met three times so far and it will meet at key points throughout the review.

The aim of the listening events was to draw out key themes and issues in order to identify the key questions that the review should address. These have been published in the consultation document.

Departmental officials spent a day in Scotland meeting a range of stakeholders, including Scottish officials, to discuss the Scottish legislation.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of possible medicine shortages in the winter of 2008-09; and which drugs he expects will be most affected. [228271]

Dawn Primarolo: There are a number of reasons why medicines shortages may occur and often it is not possible to predict them. The Department and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry have published joint best practice guidelines in order to help manage shortages if they arise. These guidelines give guidance to companies and recommend that companies communicate with the Department as soon as possible about impending shortages that may have an impact on patient care.

NHS: Standards

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve performance in those trusts rated double weak in the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check for 2007-08. [228992]

Mr. Bradshaw: Action has already been taken to address performance in the small number of 'double weak' organisations. Organisations have been asked to draw up action plans—to be agreed with strategic health authorities (SHAs) and to be published on their website by 23 October. These plans will detail how action is being taken to improve performance. In addition, Executives will be meeting with senior departmental officials, accompanied by the relevant SHA (and primary care trust where relevant) chief executives.

All action plans will be monitored by the SHA and progress will form part of the performance management discussions between SHAs and the Department.

From April 2009, those 'weak' organisations failing to demonstrate improvement will also be subjected to intervention under the NHS Performance Regime.

Pharmacy: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many licensed pharmacies there are in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* West Hertfordshire primary care trust. [229659]

Phil Hope: This information is collected only at primary care trust (PCT) level. There were 123 community pharmacies in West Hertfordshire PCT providing national health service pharmaceutical services at 31 March 2007—the latest period for which information is available.

Pharmacy: General Practitioners

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP dispensaries there are in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* West Hertfordshire primary care trust. [229655]

Phil Hope: Data are only available by primary care trust (PCT) area. The latest available data from the Exeter Payment System show that West Hertfordshire PCT area had three dispensing general practitioner practices in 2006-07.

Pharmacy: Licensing

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pharmaceutical licences have been awarded under section 13 of the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* West Hertfordshire primary care trust. [229644]

Phil Hope: This information is collected only at primary care trust (PCT) level. Four pharmacy applications under Regulation 13 of the 2005 Regulations were granted in the period 2005-06 to 2006-07 in West Hertfordshire PCT and its predecessor organisations (Hertsmere, Watford and Three Rivers, Dacorum and St. Albans and Harpenden PCTs). Information for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Portsmouth Hospitals Trust: Compensation

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much compensation was paid to patients of the Portsmouth Hospitals Trust in each of the last three years; and what legal costs were incurred in each case. [230775]

Ann Keen: The information requested is in the following table and was obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority.

Compensation and legal costs paid out by Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust by year

£

	Damages	Defence costs	Claimant costs	Total paid
2005-06	1,359,417	256,440	441,049	2,056,905
2006-07	5,543,178	369,069	385,606	6,297,852
2007-08	1,830,083	438,355	1,107,498	3,375,937
Total paid	8,732,678	1,063,864	1,934,153	11,730,695

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1180-3W, on primary care trusts: finance, what definition his Department uses of top-slicing; and how much was top-sliced from primary care trusts to strategic health authorities at the end of the *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 financial years. [230470]

Mr. Bradshaw: A top-slice is where a proportion of a primary care trust's (PCTs) allocation is held within a local strategic reserve to ensure the delivery of the overall financial position within that health economy. Since 2006-07, strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been able to determine and agree with PCTs the arrangements for top-slicing or voluntary lodgements to be held within the local strategic reserve.

I also refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 454W, which provides top-slice figures held by SHAs at the end of 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years.

Smoking

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional steps the Government plan to take to encourage smokers to stop smoking. [229856]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have committed to developing a new national tobacco control strategy to build on the achievements made since the publication of the "Smoking Kills" White paper in 1998 (which has already been placed in the Library).

The "Consultation on the future of tobacco control", which has already been placed in the Library, closed on 8 September and is the first stage in developing this new strategy. The Department is currently considering responses to this consultation.

A publication date for the new strategy will be announced in due course.

Social Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who sold their home to pay for social care in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by local authority area. [226306]

Phil Hope: The Government have taken steps to help people avoid having to sell their homes during their lifetime to pay for residential care. Since October 2001, local councils have been able to enter into a deferred payments agreement with people about to enter residential care. This allows people with property, but without income and other assets sufficient to meet their assessed financial contribution to the cost of residential care, to have a legal charge placed on their property to meet any shortfall. The local council then meets the cost of the person's residential care and reclaims the debt from the person's estate when their affairs are wound up. This gives people more options for meeting care home fees and avoids the need for their property to be sold during their lifetime.

Information about the sale of property to pay for residential care by service users supported by councils is not collected centrally. Local authorities also may not know if this has happened in the case of those who arrange their own care, for example, where a person sells a property and contracts with a care provider privately without involving social services. It is not, therefore, possible to estimate the number of homes that may have been sold for this purpose.

The value of the main residence occupied by a service user receiving home care and other non-residential social services must be disregarded when assessing their ability to pay for services.

Sugar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the confectionery industry on the sugar content of their products. [227782]

Dawn Primarolo: Department Ministers have not had any recent discussions with representatives of the confectionary industry on the sugar content of their products. The Food Standards Agency is in regular contact with the industry on the subject of reducing the sugar content of their products as part of their saturated fat and energy intake programme.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227051]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested regarding claims for expenses for the Department and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, costs are only available from 1 April 2004 and are as follows:

	£
2004-05	9,920.64
2005-06	13,964.05
2006-07	13,824.40

The Department has a contract for taxis which is paid for centrally. Expenditure has been:

		£
Financial year	*DH*	*MHRA*
2006-07	306,252.56	16,125.21
2005-06	420,699.21	4,345.74
2004-05	550,222.13	4,846.75
2003-04	497,661.57	3,466.73
2002-03	344,662.39	1,956.99

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to evaluate the effect of the £26 million allocated to primary care trusts for programmes to reduce teenage pregnancies. [230448]

Dawn Primarolo: We are taking a number of actions to monitor the outcomes of this new investment. The South West Public Health Observatory have been commissioned to develop a balanced score card for sexual health which will monitor a range of indicators at primary care trust, strategic health authority (SHA) and national level. This will be available during 2009 and the first phase will focus on outcomes for young people. In addition, a memorandum of understanding is being put in place between the SHAs and the Department, with quarterly reporting on progress against plans.

Tobacco

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what negotiating mandate he has given to his Department's officials for the conference of the parties on the framework convention on tobacco control; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the mandate; [230261]

(2) what procedures he has put in place to ensure that Government policy on tobacco control forms the basis of his officials' work in negotiations in *(a)* the European Union and *(b)* the conference of the parties on the framework convention on tobacco control; and if he will make a statement. [230262]

Dawn Primarolo: The negotiations on the framework convention on tobacco control are currently ongoing at European Union level. At the third conference of parties the UK Government, along with EU counterparts, will be negotiating for the most effective global tobacco control. The UK Government are represented by the Department in these negotiations. The Department works across Government to ensure we achieve the most effective global tobacco control guidelines in line with agreed national policy on tobacco control.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229101]

Mr. Bradshaw: No civil servants in the Department have been seconded to work for trade unions or the Trades Union Congress since 2003.

Wines

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's practice is on supplying non-alcoholic wine as a choice at official receptions or functions. [229127]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's catering policy has no rule on the provision of non-alcoholic wine. This is a choice for the person organising any event.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230960]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 617W.

Government Departments: Appointments

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library copies of replies to his letters of appointment to *(a)* the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and *(b)* Ministers in that Department. [230903]

The Prime Minister: During the recent reshuffle I spoke to Ministers and discussed the Government's priorities, but did not exchange letters of appointment.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has commissioned any studies into lessons learnt from the UK's military and humanitarian efforts in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [229379]

The Prime Minister: We review every aspect of our military and humanitarian efforts on a continuous basis, both to determine requirements and to learn lessons for future practice, drawing on the experience of military commanders and civilian personnel in theatre.

Israel

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with Prime Minister Olmert on the release of Palestinian parliamentarians held in Israeli prisons; [230024]

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

(2) what discussions he has had with Prime Minister Olmert on *(a)* the accession of Israel to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and *(b)* proposals for a middle east nuclear-free zone; and if he will make a statement. [230025]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with Prime Minister Olmert on my recent visit to Israel. In addition, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 555W.

Olympic Games

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* Opposition politicians and *(c)* members of the (i) London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, (ii) Olympic Delivery Authority and (iii) British Olympic Authority boards were invited to the reception for Team GB at 10 Downing Street following the Beijing Olympics. [230849]

The Prime Minister: I hosted a reception for Team GB at Lancaster House. Guests were invited from a range of political and sporting fields including those involved in the preparations for London 2012.

Regional Economic Council

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister who the members are of the *(a)* Regional Economic Council and *(b)* Regional Council; and whether multiple regional councils will be put in place for each Government office region. [230727]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice released by my Office. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and are also available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17067

Special Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS, whether Mr. Ravi Gurumurthy was in post as a special adviser on 22 July 2008. [229149]

The Prime Minister: No.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to the public purse of his Department was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [228625]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Total departmental spending figures are shown in Annex 2, Table 1 of the Department's Annual Report 2008 (HC 492), published in May 2008. The Annual Report is available in the Library of the House and online:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/departmental-report/2008/default.asp

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department in each year since 2001. [228916]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A total of 130 passes have been reported as lost or stolen by UK Department for International Development (DFID) staff since June 2006; of these 126 were lost and four stolen. For the period February 2004 to July 2006, please see the answer given to the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes) on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1625W. No data are available before this date.

Humanitarian Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 991-92W, on humanitarian aid, what measures are in place to ensure his Department adheres to the 23 principles of good humanitarian donorship in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* Nigeria and *(c)* Sierra Leone. [228690]

Mr. Michael Foster: The principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) are a central pillar of the Department for International Development's (DFID) Humanitarian Policy. Guidelines such as DFID's Humanitarian Funding Guidelines for NGOs also ensure that the GHD principles inform our funding decisions.

In Bangladesh, DFID is actively involved in:

(a) disaster preparedness and management (GHD principle 8);

(b) funding of relief operations as needed, channelling through UN nationally and NGOs (guided by DFID's humanitarian policy); and

(c) early recovery and assessments on reconstruction/rehabilitation (GHD principle 9).

In Nigeria and Sierra Leone, DFID does not currently provide humanitarian aid. In both cases DFID, through its development programme, works closely with partners including the UN, other donors and partner Governments to reduce the risk of disaster, to prevent the re-emergence of conflict, and to foster a greater adherence to all aid effectiveness principles.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with other Government Departments on the steps it is taking, including through its Mental Health Communication Strategy, to combat stigma against and provide support for its employees with mental illnesses. [228563]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is part of the Business Well-being Network which liaises with other Government Departments and the private sector to ensure an inclusive and cohesive approach to provide support and combat stigma for its employees with mental illness. This network takes a strategic, integrated approach to the management of well-being at work in order to reap the proven benefits associated with a healthy and engaged work force.

DFID's Mental Health Communication Strategy culminated in the launch of a Better Balance campaign in July 2007. The campaign focused on work place pressure, health and well-being, lifestyle and any significant influences that may impact on physical or mental health of staff and their ability to remain effective at work.

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the UK's total net official development assistance contribution was as a percentage of gross national income in each year since 2005. [230570]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details on the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the period 2005 to 2007 were published in the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development 2008'. This publication is available through DFID's website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK Government development aid and assistance was given to *(a)* India and *(b)* China in the latest year for which figures are available. [230971]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Total UK development expenditure, including an imputed share of multilateral Official Development Assistance, in India and China in 2006-07 was £375.4 million and £72.2 million respectively.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will end its bilateral assistance to China in 2011.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Tackling Knives Action Programme

10. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the Tackling Knives Action Programme; and if she will make a statement. [229778]

Meg Hillier: Since 5 June we have focused £2 million on intense work in 10 areas to tackle teenage knife crime, including prevention and focused enforcement. A further £3 million is being provided for after-school patrols, safer schools partnerships and Operation Staysafe in TKAP areas.

Stop and search and test purchase operations are being conducted, and the "It Doesn't Have to Happen" anti-knife crime campaign continues to grow.

Criminal Activity: Publication of Details

12. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of local newspapers on police force policies on the publication of details of individual incidents of criminal activity. [229780]

Mr. Coaker: All forces provide local crime information on their websites every month and, through the Policing Pledge, they are committed to publishing neighbourhood crime maps by December 2008.

Police forces cannot provide information about crimes in every case because there are individual privacy issues which they must rightly consider.

Knife Crime

13. **Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to reduce knife crime. [229781]

Meg Hillier: In April 2007 we introduced the collection of information on knife-related offences as part of police recorded crime data.

Since the start of the Tackling Knives Action Programme in June 2008, the numbers remanded in prison for weapons possession has doubled and the proportion sent to prison has increased by almost a third compared to last year. Nearly 100,000 people have been stopped and searched and almost 2,200 knives recovered.

Scientific Procedures on Animals

14. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely number of scientific procedures on animals which will be carried out in 2009-10. [229782]

18. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely number of scientific procedures on animals which will be carried out in 2009-10. [229787]

Meg Hillier: Animal experiments continue to be a vital tool in developing improvements in health care, and in protecting people and the environment from other hazards.

I would expect the number of animal procedures carried out in 2009-10 to remain at or around the current level of 3.2 million per year.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

15. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes to immigration legislation, guidance and practice will be introduced following the Government's decision to remove its reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [229783]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency's treatment of children must be as sensitive as possible.

We have transformed our children's policy, introducing a code of practice and have even legislated to impose a duty on UKBA to take appropriate steps to ensure that while children are in the UK they are safe from harm.

Withdrawing the reservation was made possible largely because of developments in child protection arrangements since 1991. No additional changes to legislation, guidance and/or practice are currently envisaged as a result of its removal.

DNA Samples

16. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for serious crimes are recorded as substantially based on evidence provided by the retention of DNA samples in 2007-08. [229785]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data are available on the number of detections with DNA, but not the number of convictions. In 2007-08, 83 serious violent crimes and 184 rapes were detected in which a DNA match was available. It is not possible to say whether the DNA match was the key factor in solving the crime.

Alcohol Misuse

19. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on informing young people of the dangers of alcohol misuse as part of the Government's strategy on alcohol abuse. [229788]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office Ministers have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Health, and with other Departments in relation to young people as part of the Government's Alcohol Strategy 'Safe.Sensible.Social'. The most recent meeting that took place was prior to the launch of the Youth Alcohol Action Plan earlier this year, when we informed our colleagues in other Departments about the development of the plan.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams: West Yorkshire

20. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many safer neighbourhood teams have been introduced in West Yorkshire since 2002. [229790]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since April 2008 every area in England and Wales has had a neighbourhood policing team. There are currently 47 safer neighbourhood teams in West Yorkshire police.

Overseas Workers: Visas

21. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas workers were granted visas to enter the UK in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [229791]

Mr. Woolas: Between October 2007 and September 2008, around 57,000 visas were granted to overseas nationals with Home Office work permits. In addition, over 39,000 visas were issued in permit-free employment categories.

Had the new points bases system been in place last year there would have been 12 per cent. fewer people coming in to work through the equivalent work permit route.

Victims of Crime: Female Prostitutes

22. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to prevent female prostitutes from becoming victims of crime. [229792]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Prostitution is inherently dangerous, and the most effective way to prevent those involved from becoming victims of crime is to help them to leave prostitution.

Our prostitution strategy provides a framework for local areas to develop their own strategies, including the provision of tailored support for those involved in prostitution.

Violent Crime: Plymouth

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of trends in the level of violent crime in Plymouth. [229779]

Mr. Coaker: There was a 6 per cent. reduction in 'Violence against the Person' offences within Plymouth between 2006-07 and 2007-08 (from 6,114 to 5,761). Plymouth has been supported by the Government's Tackling Violent Crime Programme to effectively tackle night-time violence with the city and to develop innovative responses to domestic violence.

Police Community Support Officers

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the work of police community support officers on crime levels. [229786]

Mr. Coaker: In January 2006 the Home Office published an evaluation of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) which found that PCSOs were valued by the police, the public and businesses for their visibility and accessibility.

We recognise the need for greater clarity and standardisation around the role—including uniform and powers—therefore a further evaluation and consultation on PCSO powers is under way and will report back in December.

Antisocial Behaviour

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to deal with those who persist in antisocial behaviour. [229784]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have put in place powerful tools to tackle disorder, including the new power to close premises where there is persistent antisocial behaviour which commences on 1 December. We have also launched the new antisocial behaviour squad to help local agencies make best use of the full range of tools and powers to tackle perpetrators who persist in antisocial behaviour.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is taking to ensure that the police, local authorities and other interested agencies work together to address antisocial behaviour; [229875]

(2) what assessment she has made of the use of the powers available to address antisocial behaviour; [229876]

(3) what future steps the Government plan to take to prevent antisocial behaviour. [229877]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No one should have to put up with antisocial behaviour. I want communities to know that the Government are firmly on their side and are turning the tables on those who persistently make others' lives a misery.

We have put in place powerful tools to tackle antisocial behaviour. Three independent reports including the Home Affairs Select Committee report (2005), the Audit Commission report (May 2006) and the NAO report (December 2006) have confirmed that they work. Indeed the NAO reported that 65 per cent. of people stop committing antisocial behaviour after intervention one rising to 93 per cent. after intervention three. Latest figures available show that local agencies across the country used these tools and powers available to tackle antisocial behaviour more than 16,000 times between April and June 2008.

People's fear of antisocial behaviour has fallen. The British Crime Survey shows a reduction in the proportion of people with a high level of perceived antisocial behaviour from 21 per cent. in 2002-03 to 16 per cent. in 2007-08.

Successful delivery of any local antisocial behaviour strategy depends on effective partnership working through Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. To assist this work, the Home Office has renewed the funding for antisocial behaviour co-ordinators for the period 2008-11 and created powerful tools to tackle disorder, including the new power to close premises where there is persistent antisocial behaviour. This new power will commence on 1 December and the statutory guidance sets out the obligations on the police and local authorities to consult each other and the advisability of consulting others. We have also launched the new antisocial behaviour squad to help local agencies make best use of the full range of tools and powers to tackle perpetrators who persist in antisocial behaviour. Furthermore we are consulting the public on antisocial behaviour on public transport.

Asylum: Cameroon

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she or her predecessor last discussed the issue of Cameroonian citizens seeking asylum in the UK with the Cameroonian High Commissioner. [228486]

Mr. Woolas: The previous Home Secretary did not meet the Cameroonian High Commissioner to talk about Cameroonian citizens seeking asylum in the UK.

British Nationality: Right of Abode

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* British Overseas Citizens, *(b)* British Nationals (Overseas) and *(c)* other British nationals who do not have a right of abode in the UK. [225966]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not readily available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Older records are not held on computer and so an estimate would involve the examination of individual paper files.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Christmas functions *(a)* she, *(b)* officials from her Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if she will make a statement. [226949]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Community Support Officers: Manpower

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there were per head of population in each police authority area in England and Wales in the most recent period for which figures are available. [229733]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the table.

Number of Police Community Support Officers[1] per 100,000 population as at 31 March 2008, by police force area

Police force	*PCSOs per 100,000 population*
Avon and Somerset	24
Bedfordshire	20
Cambridgeshire	26
Cheshire	23
Cleveland	30
Cumbria	20
Derbyshire	17
Devon and Cornwall	21

7

Number of Police Community Support Officers[1] per 100,000 population as at 31 March 2008, by police force area

Police force	*PCSOs per 100,000 population*
Dorset	22
Durham	27
Essex	26
Gloucestershire	28
Greater Manchester	30
Hampshire	18
Hertfordshire	23
Humberside	35
Kent	23
Lancashire	28
Leicestershire	22
Lincolnshire	24
London, City of[2]	—
Merseyside	30
Metropolitan Police2	57
Norfolk	33
Northamptonshire	24
Northumbria	18
North Yorkshire	23
Nottinghamshire	25
South Yorkshire	26
Staffordshire	20
Suffolk	20
Surrey	19
Sussex	24
Thames Valley	24
Warwickshire	25
West Mercia	23
West Midlands	29
West Yorkshire	35
Wiltshire	23
Dyfed Powys	14
Gwent	25
North Wales	24
South Wales	27
Total of 43 forces	29

[1] Total Strength given as full-time equivalents. This and other tables contain figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.

Death: Inquiries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the time taken by the Independent Police Complaints Commission to inquire into the death of Stuart Lubbock. [229313]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* I have received no representations on this matter. The IPCC investigation is now complete. However, as the investigation report is subject to further legal processes, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Essex Police Authority: Data Protection

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* organisations, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* individuals have (i) partial and (ii) full access to personal data held by Essex police authority; under what conditions such access is given; what legislation regulates such access; and if she will make a statement. [217732]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold information relating to which individuals or agencies have access to data kept by Essex police authority. Similarly the relevant conditions and legislation depend on what access has been granted. Such issues are a matter for the Essex police authority.

Genetics: Databases

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are profiled on the national DNA database who had samples taken whilst they were under 18 years of age; and how many of these are now adults and have not been charged or cautioned with an offence, broken down by sex. [198642]

Meg Hillier: Table 1 shows the numbers of those on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) who were profiled when under 18, regardless of ~~their age~~ now. Table 2 shows the number who are currently under 18. Table 3 shows the number of those who were under 18 at the time they were profiled, but are now over 18. In each case the figures are broken down by sex. 'Unassigned' means that the arresting officer did not complete the section of the form referring to the person's sex. The figures provided are for English and Welsh police forces only, and provide a snapshot of the NDNAD at 14 August 2008.

The number of profiles on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals as a profile may be a replicate, that is, a profile may have been loaded on more than one occasion. This can occur if a person gives a different name, or different version of their name on separate arrests, or if a profile is upgraded. The current replication rate for the whole NDNAD is 13.3 per cent. The replication rate for various subsections of the NDNAD may differ from this so the figures for individuals are estimates.

The NDNAD does not hold information on criminal histories; this information is held on the Police National Computer (PNC). Information about the number of persons who were sampled when under 18 and have not been charged or cautioned with an offence could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1. Those whose profile was added to the NDNAD when under 18 (regardless of their current age)

Number

Gender	*Total profile count*	*Estimated individuals*
Female	278,940	241,841
Male	779,925	676,195
Unassigned	8,476	7,349
Total	1,067,341	925,385

Table 2. Those on the NDNAD who are currently under 18

Number

Gender	*Total profile count*	*Estimated individuals*
Female	106,098	91,987

Table 2: Those on the NDNAD who are currently under 18

		Number
Gender	*Total profile count*	*Estimated individuals*
Male	237,117	205,580
Unassigned	1,124	975
Total	344,339	298,542

Table 3: Those whose profile was added to the NDNAD when they were under 18 who are now 18 or over

		Number
Gender	*Total profile count*	*Estimated individuals*
Female	172,842	149,854
Male	542,808	470,615
Unassigned	7,352	6,374
Total	723,002	626,843

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people aged under 18 years were added to the national DNA database in each year since its inception. [201817]

Meg Hillier: The following table shows the number of subject profiles added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) for English and Welsh police forces, and the number of these for people under the age of 18 years, in each year since its inception. It is not possible to add these figures to give the current position, as some profiles have been removed. The number of subject profiles held on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals with a profile on the NDNAD. As it is possible for profiles from the same person to be loaded on to the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded. The figures provided are for English and Welsh forces only.

Profile load year	*Profiles loaded for under-18s*	*Profiles loaded for all ages*
1995-96	5,903	32,598
1996-97	12,982	77,981
1997-98	19,266	122,011
1998-99	39,820	225,369
1999-2000	39,924	189,983
2000-01	83,257	371,839
2001-02	105,464	468,453
2002-03	95,542	444,077
2003-04	94,442	431,677
2004-05	113,311	480,225
2005-06	144,975	625,505
2006-07	149,690	667,252
2007-08	121,805	541,333
2008-09 (to date)	40,515	189,475

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have their DNA profile stored on the [illegible]onal DNA database, broken down by *(a)* police force area and *(b)* ethnicity. [212371]

Meg Hillier: The number of subject profiles held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) by force in England and Wales, as at 30 June 2008, is shown in Table 1.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of the upgrading of profiles from the SGM to the SGM Plus profiling system. It is estimated that at 30 June 2008, 13.3 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD were replicates.

However, this rate may vary between police forces, so figures for the number of individuals on the NDNAD are not given for each force.

The numbers of subject profiles, and individuals, on the NDNAD held by English and Welsh forces as at 16 July 2008, broken down by ethnic appearance, is shown in Table 2. Ethnic appearance is based on the judgment of the police officer taking the sample as to which of six broad ethnic appearance categories the person is considered to belong to. 'Unknown' means that no ethnic appearance information was recorded by the officer taking the sample.

Table 1

Force	*Subject Profiles*
Avon and Somerset	104,695
Bedfordshire	46,841
British Transport	47,179
Cambridgeshire	55,353
Cheshire	81,848
City of London Police	23,415
Cleveland	53,050
Cumbria	45,695
Derbyshire	89,403
Devon and Cornwall	112,235
Dorset	51,151
Durham	53,573
Dyfed-Powys	50,375
Essex	128,182
Gloucestershire	45,307
Greater Manchester Police	251,024
Gwent	53,019
Hampshire	149,198
Hertfordshire	75,295
Humberside	84,014
Kent	144,523
Lancashire	146,257
Leicestershire	68,500
Lincolnshire	49,053
Merseyside	133,600
Metropolitan Police	831,260
Norfolk	66,503
North Wales	60,093
North Yorkshire	57,799
Northamptonshire	45,094
Northumbria	170,317
Nottinghamshire	100,947
South Wales Constabulary	119,540
South Yorkshire	121,007
Staffordshire	99,157
Suffolk	48,077
Surrey	61,599
Sussex	115,121

Table 1

Force	*Subject Profiles*
Thames Valley	151,278
Warwickshire Police	32,974
West Mercia	78,214
West Midlands	299,446
West Yorkshire	220,649
Wiltshire	50,516
(Total subject profiles	4,872,376
Total individuals	4,224,350

Table 2

Ethnic Appearance	*Subject Profiles*	*Estimated individuals*	*Percentage*
Unknown	298,891	259,138	6.11
Asian	261,751	226,938	5.35
Black	375,342	325,422	7.67
Chinese, Japanese other SE Asian	30,335	26,300	0.62
Middle Eastern	35,862	31,092	0.73
White - North European	3,800,185	3,294,760	77.66
White - South European	91,103	78,986	1.86
Total	4,893,469	4,242,636	—

Identity Cards: Young People

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to encourage the use of forms of age verification other than passports; and if she will make it her policy to introduce a national proof of age scheme. [221909]

Meg Hillier: The Government's intention to begin offering identity cards to young people in 2010 was announced in the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan published in March this year. Holders will be able to use identity cards as proof of age, as well as using them to prove their identity when opening bank accounts, taking out student loans or starting employment. There are no plans to discourage the use of passports as evidence of identity including age; these are secure documents issued only after the applicant's identity has been carefully checked.

Oakington Immigration Centre

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees have escaped from Oakington Immigration Centre in Cambridgeshire in the last five years; how many have since been recaptured; how many are still missing as whereabouts unknown; how many of these were illegal immigrants and suspected illegal immigrants; and if she will make a statement. [227808]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The number of detainees who have escaped Oakington Immigration Removal Centre in the last five years is as follows:

	Number
2004	12
2005	4
2006	19
2007	63
2008	24[1]

[1] To date

The numbers of detainees who are re-captured are not collated centrally. Each escape is recorded and the case owner notified, should the individual be subsequently re-detained.

The police are informed immediately when a detainee has escaped and the individuals' details are recorded on the Police National Computer should the individual be apprehended at a later date.

Passports: Fraud

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* fraudulent and *(b)* stolen (i) passports and (ii) driving licences in circulation. [227561]

Meg Hillier: The information is as follows:

(a) (i) The term "fraudulent passport" can refer to a number of categories of document, e.g. forgery, counterfeit and fraudulently obtained genuine documents, and can be either UK or foreign. There is no estimate for the number of such documents in circulation.

(b) (i) The total number of passports reported by holders and recorded by IPS as stolen from 2004 to 2007 is 179,669.

No estimate has been made of the number of fraudulent or stolen driving licences in circulation.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports were issued by the Home Office in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997 that later transpired to have been fraudulently applied for. [227563]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service does not routinely collate information on the year of issue of passports found later to have been issued as result of fraudulent applications. Further, IPS is not always informed when fraudulent passports are identified, seized and taken out of circulation by other agencies in the UK and abroad.

Passports: Northern Ireland

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports were issued to residents of Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* constituency, *(b)* district council area and *(c)* primary postcode. [221797]

Meg Hillier: As we do not hold the volume of passports issued broken down in the form requested, we are unable to provide these data.

Personation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to combat the use of fraudulent identity documents. [227562]

Meg Hillier: The use of false identity documentation is a problem which we take very seriously. Our response is led by the UK Border Agency National Document Fraud Unit (NDFU) based at Status Park near Heathrow which is recognised both at home and abroad as the leader in its field. NDFU devises and conducts forgery detection training for all UK Border Agency personnel, ranging from basic training for new entrants, through intermediate to expert level. NDFU also delivers training to the police, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, and the Department for Work and Pensions. This in turn leads to substantial numbers of falsified documents being discovered within the United Kingdom and inhibits the ability of people to adopt false identities.

The Government are keen to ensure that there are effective deterrents in place for those who use false identity documents. On 7 June 2006 we brought into force section 25 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 which created new criminal offences of being in possession or control of false identity documents. Law enforcement agencies continue to use these and other legislative provisions to undertake investigations and prosecutions against those who manufacture, sell and utilise false identity documents for a variety of criminal purposes.

In addition, the Passport Validation Service provided by the Identity and Passport Service allows organisations to validate the status of a UK passport that has been presented to them as evidence of identity, and has been operational since July 2006.

Government are aware that it can be difficult for organisations in the public and private sector to recognise fraudulent identification documents. The implementation of the National Identity Scheme will provide people with a highly secure means of protecting their identity and help citizens to prove their identities easily, quickly and with vastly improved security.

Police Authorities: Bank Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was held by each police authority in England and Wales in foreign bank accounts *(a)* in each year since 2001 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [229507]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally.

This is an operational matter for each police authority and chief constable.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much is held by each police authority in England and Wales in *(a)* UK and *(b)* foreign bank accounts. [229037]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally.

This is an operational matter for each police authority and chief constable.

Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homes of serving police officers were searched by investigation teams on 27 January 1998; how many police officers were subsequently suspended from duty; how many of these were *(a)* reinstated and *(b)* prosecuted; and if she will make a statement. [227344]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held by the Home Office. These questions are related to operational matters which are the responsibility of the chief constable of the force concerned.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* below superintendent rank and *(b)* of superintendent rank and above were suspended in each police force area in each year since 1997. [228975]

Mr. Coaker: The requested data have been collected centrally since 2002-03 and are given in the following tables.

Police officers (FTE)[1] below the rank of superintendent suspended as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2008

	31 March each year					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Avon and Somerset	1	3	1	3	0	1
Bedfordshire	1	2	2	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	3	8	3	0	0	0
Cheshire	1	1	10	10	2	3
Cleveland	6	6	2	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	1	0	1	0	0
Derbyshire	5	3	3	7	7	7
Devon and Cornwall	3	3	6	7	3	10
Dorset	0	1	1	0	0	0
Durham	2	3	4	1	0	2
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	1	0	3	1
Essex	0	4	7	0	4	4
Gloucestershire	2	4	3	2	2	0
Greater Manchester	12	15	32	24	5	16
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	4	6	11	6	8	5
Hertfordshire	0	1	1	3	2	0
Humberside	3	2	2	1	0	0
Kent	0	0	4	7	9	2

Police officers (FTE)[1] below the rank of superintendent suspended as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2008

	31 March each year					
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Lancashire	0	2	6	9	4	6
Leicestershire	1	3	0	1	1	2
Lincolnshire	0	1	4	5	6	6
London, City of	0	0	1	3	1	3
Merseyside	6	7	7	7	4	8
Metropolitan police	42	49	27	31	20	21
Norfolk	2	2	3	0	1	6
Northamptonshire	0	0	1	1	1	4
Northumbria	4	3	6	22	4	13
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	1
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	1	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	3	2	6	4	3
South Wales	13	5	8	10	8	8
South Yorkshire	0	0	3	0	2	3
Staffordshire	0	1	2	0	0	3
Suffolk	3	0	5	1	0	2
Surrey	1	2	2	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	7	8	11	3
Thames Valley	2	8	11	1	1	0
Warwickshire	3	7	4	3	2	2
West Mercia	4	6	0	5	2	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	18	2
West Yorkshire	13	3	12	7	3	6
Wiltshire	0	0	0	1	2	1

[1] Based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Police officers (FTE)[1] at or above the rank of superintendent suspended as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2008

	31 March each year					
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	1	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	1	0	0	0
Metropolitan police	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0

Police officers (FTE)[1] at or above the rank of superintendent suspended as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2008

	31 March each year					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1272W, on police: disciplinary proceedings, from what date each officer had been on suspension, how much pay each officer was receiving while on suspension; what rank each was; and whether any were suspended due to allegations of racism. [229603]

Mr. Coaker: Five of the suspended officers were constables and the sixth was a sergeant.

Information requested on dates of suspension, pay whilst being suspended, and reasons for suspension are not centrally collected.

Police: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget is for each police authority in England and Wales in 2008-09. [229036]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Police authority budgets, 2008-09

Police authority	*Budget requirement 2008-09 (£)*
Avon and Somerset	259,473,100
Bedfordshire	96,055,889
Cambridgeshire	120,650,227
Cheshire	168,058,000
Cleveland	124,622,988
Cumbria	97,395,323
Derbyshire	157,222,626
Devon and Cornwall	268,084,994
Dorset	111,791,785
Durham	116,116,610
Dyfed-Powys	86,957,659
Essex	251,075,570
Gloucestershire	99,142,500
Greater Manchester	544,927,088
Gwent	114,300,881
Hampshire	294,186,000
Hertfordshire	178,222,475
Humberside	169,697,637
Kent	266,880,000
Lancashire	262,071,000
Leicestershire	164,695,837
Lincolnshire	100,638,000
Merseyside	317,100,260
Metropolitan	2,595,000,000
Norfolk	138,290,990
North Wales	129,424,255
Northamptonshire	114,800,000
Northumbria	277,821,945
North Yorkshire	132,211,729
Nottinghamshire	184,691,802
South Wales	240,301,180
South Yorkshire	246,614,189
Staffordshire	176,131,276
Suffolk	106,859,580
Surrey	191,497,346
Sussex	245,079,000
Thames Valley	356,100,977
Warwickshire	85,414,811
West Mercia	190,683,000
West Midlands	543,444,000
West Yorkshire	410,973,462
Wiltshire	99,279,332
Total England and Wales	10,833,985,323

Sources:
English police authorities: DCLG
Welsh police authorities: WAG

Police: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which population figures are used to calculate the level of police precept in the London borough of Newham. [228826]

Mr. Coaker: The precept is calculated using the tax-setting tax base for Band D properties as reported by each London borough. Population figures are not used.

Police: Translation Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much police forces spent on interpretation and translation in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England and Wales in each of the last five years. [230269]

Mr. Coaker: Funding for translation and interpretation services is not separately identified. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority.

Vetting

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will change the process of obtaining a Criminal Records Bureau check so that an individual in more than one relevant role need only apply for one check. [227500]

Meg Hillier: Disclosures are primarily designed to be used by an employer at the point of recruitment for a particular position. Ultimately it is for each employer, and not the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), to decide whether a new disclosure should be applied for, bearing in mind their legal and other responsibilities and subject to any statutory requirements.

There are a number of reasons why an employer may not wish to accept a disclosure that has been processed for a previous employment position, including:

The disclosure may not be at the right level (there are two different levels of CRB check: standard and enhanced);

The older a disclosure is the less reliant the information is because the information it contains may not be up to date;

Information revealed through a CRB check reflects the information that was available at the time of its issue—a person may have committed a crime in the intervening period;

The disclosure process may also include a search to establish whether an individual is subject to a direction under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002, or a check against the Protection of Children Act and Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoCA and PoVA) lists;

Each disclosure is specific to the circumstances of a particular job application and any decision to disclose any non-conviction information held by individual police forces is unique to that position.

The introduction of the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) may affect how employers behave. An initial application to the scheme can include, for eligible applicants, a CRB check at the same time. Once an individual is registered with the scheme, the employer will be advised of their registered status and a CRB disclosure will be issued.

Any further information arising on the individual will be referred to the Independent Safeguarding Authority for consideration, and employers will be updated with any change to the individual's registered status. It will be a matter for employers to decide when and whether a further CRB check is needed, except in those sectors where this is a separate legal requirement.

The scheme will increase portability of an individual's "barring status" (suitability) and the scope of role deemed "relevant" within certain sectors.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Emergency Services: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions there were in Northern Ireland in relation to assaults on *(a)* police officers, *(b)* ambulance personnel and *(c)* fire service officers in each of the last three years. [230363]

Paul Goggins: The number of convictions for assaults on *(a)* police officers and *(c)* fire and rescue service officers are documented in the following table. Assaults on *(b)* ambulance personnel do not constitute a separate offence under legislation: prosecutions for such assaults are instead taken forward under the normal range of offences against the person. As the backgrounds of the victims of such offences are not recorded on central databases, I regret it is not possible to give the numbers of such convictions which related to assaults on ambulance personnel.

Assault on fire and rescue officers became an offence on 1 July 2006 under the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

Conviction data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of convictions for assaults on police officers and fire and rescue service officers, 2004-06

	2004	*2005*	*2006*
Assault on police officer	576	590	684
Assault on fire and rescue service officer	—	—	0

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Finance

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effects of the shortfall in the policing budget of £88 million over the last three years identified by the Policing Board of Northern Ireland; what steps he plans to take to address those effects; and if he will make a statement. [227727]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office secured a substantial level of funding for policing in Northern Ireland in the 2007 comprehensive spending review. We recognise, however, that within this generous settlement PSNI will need to prioritise their plans.

As the financial year progresses the Northern Ireland Office will continue to work closely with the PSNI and the Policing Board to identify ways that will enable PSNI to balance their budget over the CSR07 period.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by her Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228740]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Including those staff who came to us through machinery of government changes, we have recruited two staff over 55 years of age, representing 11 per cent. of new recruits, and one member of staff aged over 60 years, equivalent to 6 per cent. of new recruits in 2007-08.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which companies have been used by the Government Equalities Office for providing temporary staff since its establishment; and what the value of contracts with each such company has been. [229092]

Maria Eagle: Since its establishment on the 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has used the following companies and made the following contract payments for the provision of temporary staff.

Company	*Contract value (£)*
Adecco	96,152
Brook Street UK Ltd	65,509
Michael Page Associates	15,012
Morgan Hunt	70,672
Reed Employment Ltd	56,045
Total	303,390

Women: Violence

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* nature and *(b)* extent of violence against women; and if she will make a statement. [229882]

Maria Eagle: In July the Minister for Women and Equality published "Women's Changing Lives: Priorities for the Ministers for Women One Year On Progress Report". In this report the Government assess the nature and extent of violence against women at length, and detail the significant progress made by Government on tackling violence against women and the other priorities for the Ministers for Women.

More recently the Home office, with the support of my Department, announced that they are undertaking a scoping project to audit current activity to tackle violence against women, identify gaps in delivery and look for opportunities to join up more strategically at a national and local level.

"Women's Changing Lives" and the earlier report, "Tackling Violence Against Women: a Cross-Government Narrative", are both available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent progress has been made in the Government's work to reduce levels of violence against women; and if she will make a statement. [229883]

Maria Eagle: In July the Minister for Women and Equality published "Women's Changing Lives: Priorities for the Ministers for Women One Year On Progress Report" which details the significant progress made by Government on tackling violence against women and the other priorities for the Ministers for Women. It highlights a number of measures taken to reduce levels of violence against women, including:

Rolling out multi-agency risk assessment conferences across the country to reduce repeat incidents of domestic violence. MARACs are currently operational in 100 areas, and will be rolled out nationally by 2010-11.

Implemented a range of changes to the legal system and to how the police and Crown Prosecution Service work, which have resulted in women's increased willingness to report rape. Reporting of rape has increased since 1997, with the number of rapes reported to the police rising from 6,628 in 1997 to 12,654 in 2007-08.

Criminalised all forms of human trafficking and secured 86 convictions for trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation under the Sexual Offences Act. Since publication, this number has increased to 90 convictions (as of September 2008).

This and the earlier report, "Tackling Violence Against Women: a Cross-Government Narrative" chart the progress made by Government, and are both available in the Libraries of both Houses.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the original estimate for building cost inflation in the Olympic Construction Budget was for each year to 2012; and what the most recent estimate is for each such year. [229334]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The funding envelope of £9.325 billion assumed construction inflation of 6 per cent. per annum. The current but as yet unsubstantiated estimates of inflation indicate a downward trend but in view of the present volatility, the Olympic Delivery Authority advise that a further six months procurement data will be required before any reasonably accurate assessment can be made. Any savings as a result of lower construction inflation will help to offset cost increases.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics with reference to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report,* column 1250W, on the Olympic Games, whether the £290 million, referred to in the answer as the investment in elite and community sport within the non-Olympic Delivery Authority provision public sector funding package for the Games' is in addition to the funding announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's elite athlete funding package of March 2006; and if she will make a statement. [229337]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* Yes. The £290 million I announced in 200[illegible] [illegible]rate from the funding announced by the Chancellor in March 2006. The £290 million is the Home Country Sports Councils' contribution to elite and community sport as part of the overall Olympic budget. It is for each of these Sports Councils to determine how their contribution will be spent. The Chancellor's package confirmed £200 million of additional exchequer funding for UK Sport to be distributed to our Olympic and Paralympic sports and athletes up to London 2012, supported by £300 million of lottery investment and £100 million from the private sector.

Olympic Games 2012: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which organisations based in Wales have been awarded contracts by the Olympic Delivery Authority; what the value of each such contract is; and what work has been commissioned or goods and services procured under each such contract. [228436]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 20 October 2008]*: To date, four businesses or organisations registered in Wales have been awarded contracts by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). These are:

Glamorgan County Cricket Club
John Evans Photography
Office of National Statistics
Strategy and Solution Limited

These were awarded for leisure, media, and business services. I cannot disclose their values due to reasons of commercial confidentiality.

I am very keen to ensure that the games provide benefits that are felt nationally. The London 2012 Business Network has been developed to open up London 2012 supply chains and spread these opportunities to business across the country. The CompeteFor system, a key component of this, is a matching service for buyers and suppliers.

In June, the ODA and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) visited Wales to raise awareness of current and future business opportunities and the importance of registering on CompeteFor. Also, I can tell you that Welsh businesses and officials from the Welsh Assembly will be visiting the Olympic park for a briefing session with the ODA on 27 October.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many agencies were sponsored by his Department or its predecessor in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228505]

Mr. Simon: The "Next Steps Report 1997" (Cm3889) provides information on all Executive Agencies as at 31 December 1997. Copies are available from the Library of the House. The most up-to-date list of Executive Agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication "The List of Ministerial Responsibilities". The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Higher Education: Research

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criteria are used to take decisions on allocation of quality related research funding. [228636]

Mr. Lammy: Within England, quality related research funding (QR) is allocated and distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). The overall criterion for HEFCE QR funding is to fund excellent research wherever it is found. There are a number of components to QR funding as set out in the following table:

The components of quality-related research funding

	£ million
Mainstream QR allocated to reflect the quality and volume of research at institutions in different subjects	919.8
Research degree programme supervision fund	199.0
Charity support element	184.9
Business research element	61.7
London weighting	28.7
"Best 5" allocation	24.5
Supplementary funding to maintain QR in real terms	11.9
Special funding for research libraries	5.9

The criteria for mainstream QR are quality (as determined by research assessment exercises—RAE), volume, and subject cost weighting. There are three subject cost weightings: high cost laboratory and clinical subjects, intermediate cost subjects and other.

HEFCE measure the volume of research in each unit of assessment using three separate components. These volume components apply for departments rated four or above in the RAE and are weighted as follows:

research-active academic staff—1 x number of FTE research-active academic staff funded from general funds (including NHS funding for nursing and other subjects allied to medicine) and selected for assessment in the RAE

research assistants—0.067 x number of FTE research assistants

research fellows—0.06 x number of FTE research fellows.

More detailed information on allocation of funding is set out in HEFCE publication 2007/20 "Funding higher education in England: How HEFCE allocates its funds", available on the HEFCE website:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2007/07_20/

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much quality related funding was awarded in the last funding round to universities to support *(a)* five star, *(b)* four star, *(c)* three star, *(d)* two star and *(e)* one star research. [228639]

Mr. Lammy: Quality related (QR) funding in 2008-9 is allocated on the basis of the 2001 RAE. Scores in that exercise range from 1 to 5*. The amount of funding allocated at each rating level are as follows:

2001 RAE rating	*2008-09 HEFCE research funding (£ million)*	*Percentage of total*
1	0.0	0.0
2	0.0	0.0
3b	0.6	0.0
3a	0.9	0.1
4	190.9	14.1
5	650.2	48.1
5*	509.8	37.7
Total England	1,352.4	100.0

Figures only include funding streams that are allocated at the departmental level. These are: mainstream QR; research degree programme supervision funds; London extra costs; 'best 5star' funds; and charities support funds.

Higher Education: Standards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the performance of English universities against international benchmarks; and if he will make a statement. [229983]

Mr. Lammy: The UK higher education system is internationally renowned for its high quality, high graduate employability and high student satisfaction. There is no recognised international benchmarking system for universities although a number of unofficial ranking systems have emerged which consistently recognise the UK HE system as world leading, second only to the United States. An indication of the attractiveness of the UK HE system is the continued success our institutions have in recruiting international students. According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's "Education at a Glance" 2008 published in September, the UK remains the most attractive destination, excepting the United States, for international students.

Innovators Growth Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what projects have been supported by the £3 million Innovators Growth Programme; and when he expects the programme to establish its first sector pilots. [227180]

Mr. Lammy: The Innovators Growth Programme, run by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA), encourages innovation in small and medium sized enterprises in the creative sector.

Pilots for the "Digital Innovation in Film", "Digital Convergence" and "Raise the Game" projects were launched in March, May and July 2008 respectively.

The pilot for the "Creative Business Catalyst" is scheduled to start this month (October 2008) and the pilot for "Creative Business Mentor Network" will start in November 2008.

The Innovators Growth Programme has also funded the "London Fashion Designer Economy Research" to help inform a future project in this area.

Intellectual Property: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to require internet service providers and rights holders to co-operate in taking action on illegal file sharing as discussed in the cross-departmental report, New Talents for the New Economy. [227177]

Mr. Lammy: As the hon. Member will be aware, work in this area is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, in close co-operation with DIUS and DCMS. The Government are determined to ensure that the problem of illegal file sharing is tackled. As to whether legislation is needed, it has not yet made any such assessment, but is awaiting the results of the current consultation on legislative options, including our preferred approach of co-regulation, which closes on the 30 October. That assessment will take into account the work that is going ahead on a voluntary basis to tackle unlawful peer-to-peer file-sharing under the auspices of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the biggest internet service providers, major music and film players, and Government.

Midwives: Training

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many midwifery educationalists there were in higher education institutions in England in each year since 1997. [230909]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not held centrally.

Students: Initiation Rites

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what representations have been made to his Department about university initiation rites in each of the last three years. [229043]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no representations made on this subject in the last three years.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average *(a)* training and *(b)* student support cost of training a primary school teacher was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [229019]

Mr. Lammy: Training costs for primary teacher trainees vary depending on the training route, the location of the training and the type of course. Full details for the academic year 2008-09 are available in the Training and Development Agency for Schools funding manuals, copies of which are available at

http://www.tda.gov.uk/upload/resources/pdf/m/minastream fundmanua10809.pdf

for mainstream and

http://www.tda.gov.uk.upload/resources/pdf/e/ebitifunding manual0809.pdf

for employment-based initial teacher training.

Since 2006-07, students entering undergraduate teacher training courses PGCE courses have been required to pay their tuition fees (up to £3,145 in 2008-09). They are eligible for a tuition fee loan to cover the fee charged, and are also eligible for a partially means-tested maintenance grant (up to £2,835 in 2008-09) and a partially means-tested maintenance loan (up to £4,625 for students living away from home and studying outside London). £4,000 training bursaries are also payable to eligible trainees following primary postgraduate mainstream courses. The bursary is not payable to trainees on undergraduate or employment-based training routes.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Apprentices: North Staffordshire

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans Jobcentre Plus has to *(a)* advertise, *(b)* promote and *(c)* fill apprenticeships in (i) Newcastle-under-Lyme and (ii) North Staffordshire; [226595]

(2) what apprenticeships in the construction sector which Jobcentre Plus helped to *(a)* advertise, *(b)* promote and *(c)* fill in (i) Newcastle-under-Lyme and (ii) North Staffordshire in 2007-08; [226596]

(3) what apprenticeships Jobcentre Plus helped to *(a)* advertise, *(b)* promote and *(c)* fill in (i) Newcastle-under-Lyme and (ii) North Staffordshire in 2007-08 [226597]

(4) how many apprenticeships Jobcentre Plus helped to *(a)* advertise, *(b)* promote and *(c)* fill in (i) Newcastle-under-Lyme and (ii) North Staffordshire in 2007-08; [226598]

(5) what co-ordination takes place between Jobcentre Plus, local further education colleges and the Learning and Skills Councils to *(a)* advertise, *(b)* promote and *(c)* fill apprenticeships in (i) Newcastle-under-Lyme and (ii) North Staffordshire. [226599]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 21 October 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions concerning the advertising, promotion and filling of apprenticeships in Newcastle-under-Lyme and North Staffordshire. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Learning and Skills Council have lead responsibility for managing apprenticeships. They hold details of employers interested in offering apprenticeships and provide the information to further education establishments and the local authority Connexions services to promote the opportunities available. They do not advertise the availability of apprenticeships through Jobcentre Plus.

We direct customers who are interested in apprenticeships to the Learning and Skills Council and the local authority Connexions service for young people who hold information on all apprenticeships available. We make this referral through our network of advisers within Jobcentres. Our website www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk also directs customers to the apprenticeships website www.apprenticeships.gov.uk, hosted by the Learning and Skills Council.

We do accept vacancies offering an apprenticeship direct from the employer. Labour Market Recruitment Advisers in local Jobcentres are on hand to offer advice to those employers and direct them to the Connexions Service and the Learning and Skills Council for more information and support regarding apprenticeships.

We do not collect formal data on vacancies we have advertised that have offered an apprenticeship. However, we understand that very few employers offering an apprenticeship have contacted Newcastle-under-Lyme Jobcentre or the other Jobcentres in North Staffordshire. Generally, employers are aware that apprenticeships are handled through Connexions and the Learning and Skills Council and approach them directly.

We are working very closely with North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership to tackle worklessness. In Newcastle-under-Lyme, we hold regular liaison meetings with the local Connexions service, the Learning and Skills Council and other partner organisations; sharing information on modern apprenticeships available is something we are looking at to address worklessness in North Staffordshire.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226957]

James Purnell: The Department does not have any account codes or categories specifically identifying spend on Christmas functions. While the policy is not to incur this type of expense in hosting events or for attendance at events by staff, there may be a small number of occasions when senior civil servants and departmental Ministers hosted and attended Christmas functions during 2007-08. However, to try and identify any such expenditure would incur a disproportionate amount of time and cost.

Council Tax Benefits

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was claimed in council tax benefits in each constituency in England in each of the last three years. [226762]

Kitty Ussher: A holding reply was sent on 14 October 2008.

The information is not available. Information on council tax benefit expenditure at a local authority level is available on the Department's website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/HBandCTB_expenditure.asp

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many agencies were sponsored by his Department or its predecessor in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228503]

Jonathan Shaw: The 'Next Steps Report 1997' (Cm3889) provides information on all Executive agencies as at 31 December 1997. Copies are available from the Library of the House. The most up-to-date list of Executive agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication "The List of Ministerial Responsibilities". The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research has been commissioned on behalf of his Department by external consultants in the last 10 years; and what the cost was of this research. [226976]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department commissions social and economic research with external consultants to help inform, develop and evaluate policy initiatives.

Communications research is also commissioned to assist the development of campaign strategies and future communications activities.

As the Department was established in 2001, it is not possible to provide details for the 10 years. Information on individual departmental research projects commissioned since 2001 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Communications research is commissioned through a number of framework agreements and the Central Office of Information. Communications research is often included within campaign development costs and the specific costs are not held separately and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

The Department's expenditure on social and economic research for the last seven financial years is given in the following table:

Financial year	*Social and economic research expenditure (£ million)*
2001-02	11.8
2002-03	10.2
2003-04	12.5
2004-05	14.2
2005-06	16.9
2006-07	15.2
2007-08[1]	15.0

[1] Estimated outturn for DEL taken from table 5 of the annual Departmental Report.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227472]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP ran a series of deliberative workshops in July 2008 using some of the principles of citizens juries to find out how people thought the working age benefit budget should be spent. Seven workshops, including one pilot were conducted around the UK with a total of 147 members of the public participating. No Members of Parliament took part. The research cost £164,185 in total, which includes recruitment of participants, operational costs in running the workshops, analysis of the data and a full analytical report. The report is due to be published shortly as part of the DWP research series.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226887]

James Purnell: My Department has replied to a total of 621 named day questions in the current parliamentary session, of which 246 (39.6 per cent.) had substantive replies on the named day and 375 (60.4 per cent.) received holding replies.

Disability Living Allowance: Scotland

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency receive the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance. [229890]

Jonathan Shaw: At February 2008, 2,370 people in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency were receiving the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance.

Notes:

1. The figure is rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figure shows the number of people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* the lower rate and *(b)* the higher rate of the mobility component of disability living allowance in (i) each constituency in Scotland and (ii) Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [230445]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much in housing benefit has been paid to tenants of *(a)* housing associations and *(b)* local authorities, including arm's length management organisations, since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the effect on housing benefit costs of tenants transferring from council management to registered social landlords as part of stock transfers in each of those years. [229403]

Kitty Ussher: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer given on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W.

Housing Benefit: Complaints

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been brought to the attention of his Department or the Rent Service on the operation of local housing allowance; and from which broad rental market areas these have come in the last 12 months. [229581]

Kitty Ussher: A holding reply was sent on 23 October 2008.

The Rent Service has received six complaints on the operation of the local housing allowance for the broad rental market areas of: Bournemouth; Central Greater Manchester; Chichester and Sussex Downs; Devon South; Hull and Inner North and West London.

No official record of complaints regarding the operation of local housing allowance is held by the Department for Work and Pensions as this is the responsibility of local authorities. However, since national rollout on 7 April 2008 we have received a total of 76 letters from Members and 47 letters directly from members of the public regarding the local housing allowance. There are no central records held indicating from which broad rental market areas these inquiries originate.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many failed telephone calls were made to the Jobcentre Plus helpline *(a)* in each region and *(b)* nationally (i) in each quarter of 2008-09 and (ii) in each month of 2008-09 to date; and if he will make a statement. [227950]

Mr. McNulty: A holding reply was sent on 20 October 2008.

The information is not available.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh, West's correspondence of 22 August on his constituent Mr. Sandy Horn and the Financial Assistance Scheme. [228834]

Mr. McNulty: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the access criteria laid down in the tender documents for the successor to the Post Office Card Account. [229479]

Mr. McNulty: A holding reply was sent on 23 October 2008.

The contents of the tender documents are currently commercial in confidence and therefore cannot be placed in the Library.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of awarding the Post Office Card Account contract to more than one bidder; [229747]

(2) when the decision on the award of the Post Office Card Account contract will be *(a)* taken and *(b)* announced; [229749]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the award of the Post Office Card Account contract. [229750]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A holding reply was sent on 23 October 2008.

This is a commercial tendering process, bound by UK and European law. We will announce the outcome when that is completed. I cannot speculate on the consequences of any particular outcome.

Whatever the outcome, people will still be able to access their pension or benefit at the Post Office if they choose to do so, and there is a range of bank accounts available at the Post Office that makes this possible. The Government remain strongly committed to a sustainable and nationwide Post Office network, on the back of the £1.7 billion funding package and new national access criteria for the Post Office that we announced last year.

Ministers have regular discussions with colleagues about the payments of benefits and pensions and wider social policy issues.

Poverty: Pensioners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners who would be lifted out of poverty if there was 100 per cent. take up of entitlement to *(a)* council tax benefit, *(b)* pension credit and *(c)* housing benefit. [221690]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer the hon. and learned Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. O'Brien) gave the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1188W.

Powers Of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by his Department has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [222132]

Mr. McNulty: I refer to the reply given to parliamentary written question number 222046 by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office (Mr. Coaker) on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W.

Social Security Benefits: Earnings Rules

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a deferred state pension is considered notional income when calculating *(a)* housing and *(b)* council tax benefit. [228245]

Kitty Ussher: A holding reply was sent on 20 October 2008.

Notional income provisions in housing benefit (HB) and council tax benefit (CTB) do not apply to state pension which is being deferred. As HB and CTB can be paid to people who are working, it was decided as a matter of policy that a person who defers their pension should not be subject to the notional income rule. This reflects the policy of encouraging people to stay in work after state retirement age if they wish to do so.

This is not the case in state pension credit, where different policy considerations apply. Deferred state pension is considered as notional income in pension credit because pension credit is intended to help people whose resources are insufficient to meet their day-to-day living expenses. Any income that is available to meet those expenses, including deferred state pension, is normally taken fully into account when working out how much benefit can be paid.

For this reason, for people who claim HB and/or CTB and are in receipt of only the savings credit element of state pension credit, the Pension, Disability and Carers Service will have taken the person's deferred state pension into account when calculating entitlement to pension credit. In these cases, the local authority must use the Pension, Disability and Carers Service's assessment of income when calculating entitlement to housing benefit and council tax benefit.

So, effectively, deferred state pension will be taken into account in these cases. We are aware of this issue and are considering options for reviewing it.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) on what date the decision was made to charge clients for telephone calls to the 0845 number for the benefits delivery centre at St. Austell; and for what reason the decision was made; [227365]

(2) what revenue Jobcentre Plus has received from the operation of the 0845 number of the benefits delivery centre at St. Austell in each of the last three years; and how this revenue has been allocated. [227366]

Mr. McNulty: A holding reply was sent on 16 October 2008.

The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking on what date the decision was made to charge clients for telephone calls to the 0845 number for the benefits delivery centre at St Austell; and for what reason the decision was made and what revenue Jobcentre Plus has received from the operation of the 0845 number of the benefits delivery centre at St Austell in each of the last three years; and how this revenue has been allocated. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In line with other DWP Contact Centres, the decision was made to move to 0845 numbers as Benefit Delivery Centres (BDCs) rolled out nationally. St Austell BDC started using 0845 numbers on 19 March 2007.

Jobcentre Plus made a decision to use 0845 numbers as opposed to geographical prefix numbers as these numbers will, in the main, be cheaper than calling a national rate number. The 0845 prefix also enables us to provide better customer service by recording call statistics, providing a call queuing function and playing automated announcements providing customer information.

The revenue received from 0845 numbers across the whole of DWP ceased in December 2007. We did not keep a breakdown of the revenue by business. The rebate from BT amounted to £0.5m per annum across DWP, some 0.007% of our annual budget and was used by DWP to re-invest in services.

Unemployment Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of children lived in families claiming out-of-work benefits in each year since 2004, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [226158]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1237-38W.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most recent workload forecasts by Jobcentre Plus are for the volume of claims for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit and *(d)* Social Fund loans for (i) the second, (ii) the third and (iii) the fourth quarters of 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [227951]

Mr. McNulty: A holding reply was sent on 20 October 2008.

The information has been placed in the Library.

Unemployment Benefits: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time on *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* income support and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance was in the latest period for which figures are available for claimants in the most-deprived ward in (i) Barry, (ii) Blackpool, (iii) Bognor Regis, (iv) Bournemouth, (v) Bridlington, (vi) Brighton, (vii) Burnham on Sea, (viii) Clacton, (ix) Conway, (x) Dawlish/Teignmouth, (xi) Deal, (xii) Eastbourne, (xiii) Exmouth, (xiv) Falmouth, (xv) Folkestone/Hythe, (xvi) Great Yarmouth, (xvii) Hastings/Bexhill, (xviii) Ilfracombe, (xix) Isle of Wight, (xx) Lowestoft, (xxi) Minehead, (xxii) Morecambe/ Heysham, (xxiii) Newquay, (xxiv) Penzance, (xxv) Porthcawl, (xxvi) Rhyl, (xxvii) Scarborough, (xxviii) Sidmouth, (xxix) Skegness, (xxx) Southend on Sea, (xxxi) Southport, (xxxii) St Ives, (xxxiii) Swanage, (xxxiv) Thanet, (xxxv) Torbay, (xxxvi) Weston super Mare, (xxxvii) Weymouth, (xxxviii) Whitby, (xxxix) Whitley Bay, (xl) Whitstable/Herne Bay and (xli) Worthing ranked in order of greatest disparity from the national average. [228675]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Voluntary Work

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has commissioned on the effect of volunteering on an individual's speed of return to employment; and if he will make a statement. [227946]

Mr. McNulty: A holding reply was sent on 17 October 2008.

We are in no doubt of the important role that voluntary activity in the community can play in helping unemployed people to keep in touch with the labour market. Voluntary work can also provide benefit recipients with skills and experience that may improve their chances of finding paid employment.

Recent research has looked at volunteering in the context of mandatory options in the new deals, including "The Longer Term Impact of the New Deal for Young People" (DWP working paper 23, 2008) and changes to benefit rules related to volunteering, "Volunteering and Availability for Work: An evaluation of the change to Jobseeker's Allowance regulations" (DWP working-age research report 190, 2004).

Copies of these reports have been placed in the library.

Welfare to Work: Devolution

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what Ministerial or official meetings he or his officials have had with counterparts in the devolved institutions in Scotland and Wales on welfare to work programmes; and if he will publish the minutes of such meetings. [226838]

Mr. McNulty: Ministers and officials meet with the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly Government on issues of mutual concern in line with Cabinet Office guidance on working with the devolved Administrations. Minutes of meetings are not normally made public.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria his Department uses to value non-cash contributions made by academy sponsors. [230135]

Jim Knight: Sponsors of academies, whether they contribute financially or in other ways, are key to driving the educational transformation of failing schools. This Department does not use set criteria to evaluate non-cash contributions. Non-cash contributions include: developing an ethos and vision for the proposed academy; chairing the Project Steering Group and Design User Group to ensure the sponsor's vision and ethos guide the establishment of the academy. DCSF officials and consultants work with the sponsor at all stages in the development and operation of the academy, supporting them to provide this role.

Assessments: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding has been provided by his Department to educational institutions to offer diploma courses for 14 to 19-year-olds, broken down by institution type; [225838]

(2) how much funding each school and college offering diplomas for 14 to 19-year-olds will receive in each of the next three years in *(a)* per capita funding and *(b)* other funding as a result of offering diploma courses; [225839]

(3) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* other forms of marketing in respect of 14 to 19 diplomas in each year since the plan to introduce such diplomas was announced; [225845]

(4) what estimate he has made of his Department's expected total expenditure on diplomas for 14 to 19-year-olds by the end of 2009. [225846]

Jim Knight: Diplomas are delivered by consortia of schools and colleges and we provide funding to consortia. We do not hold information on the amount of diploma funding at individual school or college level.

The Department has provided for 2008-09 a grant towards the additional costs of delivering diplomas at KS4 to those local authorities with consortia approved to deliver the first five diploma lines. The average level of funding is £1,000 per diploma learner, though the actual amount each institution receives for students aged 16-18 taking diplomas is calculated according to rates published for providers by the Learning Skills Council (LSC). The rate is based on the costs of learning being delivered and other factors related to the needs of the individual learner and the particular circumstances of the institution.

Details of spend on advertising, conferences and other marketing in relation to diplomas is as follows:

	Amount spent (£)	
Activity	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Advertising	1,459,491	0
Other forms of marketing leaflets, posters, DVDs, website and Roadshows	2,472,702	2,722,710
Conferences	225,000	258,000

Funding estimated to be made available for diplomas during the financial year 2008-09 is £128.4 million.

Autism: Intimidation

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to minimise the number of pupils with autism who are excluded from school because they are being bullied. [230239]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have an ongoing programme of work to help prevent and tackle the bullying of children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. In May 2008 we published guidance which provides schools with comprehensive advice on how to prevent and tackle the bullying of children with SEN and disabilities. The guidance makes clear that pupils with SEN and disabilities must not be excluded from school for being bullied, even if the school believes they are doing so for the child's benefit. The guidance also includes useful case studies illustrating how schools have successfully tackled the bullying of autistic pupils, and how schools should respond in situations where autistic pupils are provoked into attacking other pupils. The Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies are working with local authorities and schools to ensure the guidance is effectively implemented on the ground.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library copies of letters sent by his Department's ContactPoint team to practitioners about Conservative Party policy on ContactPoint; to whom these letters were sent; and who authorised them being sent. [230558]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This question was answered in a letter from David Bell, the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Children, Schools and Families, sent on 24 October 2008 to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove). A copy of the letter has been placed in the House Library.

Departmental Bank Services

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's capital projects under *(a)* the Building Schools for the Future programme and *(b)* other programmes have involved financing from Landsbanki in the last three years, broken down by (i) school and (ii) local authority area. [230220]

Jim Knight: The Department is not aware, from information held centrally, of financing from Landsbanki being involved in capital projects funded through its schools capital programmes.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229141]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. Since that time to date, there have been 40 civil servants recruited through the fast stream. The average salary is £27,793.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which companies have been used by his Department for providing temporary staff since its establishment; and what the value of contracts with each such company has been. [229203]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The Department has used three agencies—Adecco, Reed and Hays—to recruit the majority of temporary staff at a total cost of £1,155,725.

For a small number of specialist temporary staff, the Department has used other agencies but information on this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the reasons are for the delays in making education maintenance allowance payments; and if he will make a statement. [230366]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

General Teaching Council: Data Protection

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the General Teaching Council about its recent loss of confidential data; and what steps are being taken to *(a)* retrieve the data and *(b)* ensure that such circumstances are not able to recur. [230365]

Jim Knight: Officials within the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) have been in close and continuous contact with the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) over the recent loss of personal data for some 11,400 teachers by a recognised courier contracted by one of their data suppliers.

Despite an extensive search of the courier's vehicles and premises, the disc (which was password protected and encrypted and did not contain national insurance numbers or financial data) was not found. Both the GTCE and the DCSF have taken urgent steps to put additional security checks in place for the affected records.

The GTCE has already changed its systems to ensure that there will be no similar incident in future. It is putting in place enhanced security where necessary in line with the requirements of the Government's Data Handling Procedures (June 2008) and all future data exchanges with their data processor will be via secure electronic means and not on physical discs.

Outdoor Education: Safety

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to issue revised health and safety guidance on learning outside the classroom to schools; and if he will make a statement. [230263]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families is currently revising Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits (1998) and its three-part supplement (2002), with publication provisionally scheduled for the first quarter 2009.

Pupil Exclusions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what definition of internal exclusion his Department uses in its guidance on school exclusions and pupil referral units. [230238]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My Department's statutory guidance on exclusions, published in September, sets out that in most cases permanent exclusion will be the last resort, after a range of measures have been tried to improve a pupil's behaviour. A number of options may be available to head teachers to manage serious breaches of the school behaviour policy, including internal exclusion.

Internal exclusions can be used to defuse situations that occur in schools that require a pupil to be removed from class but may not require removal from the school premises. The internal exclusion could be to a designated area within the school, with appropriate support and supervision, or to another class on a temporary basis, and may continue during break periods. Internal exclusion should be for the shortest time possible and should be subject to review.

My Department has published good practice guidance on internal exclusion, available at

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=12506

Pupil Exclusions: Autism

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with autism spectrum disorders were subject to *(a)* permanent exclusion and *(b)* fixed-term exclusion from school in the academic year 2006-07. [230230]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is only available on the primary special educational need for pupils who are classified as being at School Action Plus or with a statement of special educational needs. This information is shown in the table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1] [2] [3] exclusions where pupils primary SEN need is autistic spectrum disorder[4] 2006/07

	Primary schools[1]		State funded secondary schools[1] [2]		Special schools[3]	
	Number of exclusions	*Percentage of the school population*[5]	*Number of exclusions*	*Percentage of the school population*[5]	*Number of exclusions*	*Percentage of the school population*[5]
Permanent exclusions	20	0.12	10	0.08	10	0.08
Fixed period exclusions						
Number of fixed period exclusions	900	–	2,060	–	390	–
Number of pupils with at least one episode of fixed period exclusion	430	2.27	1,100	9.27	200	1.58

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes both CTCs and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.

[4] Data for primary SEN need is collected for pupils with a statement of special educational needs or who are classified as being school action plus only. Data here have been taken from the National Pupil Database.

[5] The number of permanent exclusions or pupils with at least one fixed period exclusion by primary need expressed as a percentage of the school population with that primary need.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Pupil Exclusions: Special Educational Needs

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of exclusions of pupils with special educational needs. [230229]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's statutory guidance on exclusions is clear that, other than in exceptional circumstances, schools should avoid permanently excluding pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN).

As committed in the Children's Plan, my Department has started work with 13 local authorities which have a relatively good record in reducing exclusions of children with SEN to identify any good practice which can be shared more widely. I anticipate being in a position to disseminate such practice nationally from autumn 2009.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the factors influencing the proportion of children attending pupil referral units who have been assessed as having special educational needs. [230237]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has not commissioned research on the factors influencing the proportion of children attending pupil referral units who have been assessed as having special educational needs.

The latest available information shows the number of pupils with special educational needs educated in pupil referral units as at January 2008. This has been published as tables 1a and 1b of the Departments SFR: Special Education Needs in England 2008 and can be found at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to collect data on the types of special educational needs of pupils who have been excluded. [230240]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My Department already collects data via the annual Pupil Level School Census on exclusions, and on the primary special educational need (SEN) for pupils who are classified as being at School Action Plus or with a statement of SEN.

It is possible for my officials to draw on these data and cross-analyse primary SEN against exclusion, as I asked them to do in the case of the hon. Member's question (number 230230) of 23 October 2008.

Following the SEN (Information) Act 2008, my Department is considering collecting information on the primary SEN type for children at School Action, in addition to School Action Plus and for pupils with statements of SEN.

Pupil referral units (PRUs) do not make pupil level returns, but a PRU level return is made in January of each year. This does not include information on exclusions nor the primary SEN need of pupils, therefore these data are not available for PRUs. My Department is investigating options for the collection of pupil level data for PRUs.

Pupil Referral Units: Autism

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with autism spectrum disorders have been sent to a pupil referral unit in the last 12 months. [230178]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Pupil Referral Units: Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children at pupil referral units had special educational needs according to the most recent school census for which data are available, broken down by type of need. [230534]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the previous answer given by the Department on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 331W.

Pupils: Languages

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils at *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Lancashire do not speak English as a first language; [230267]

(2) how many schools there are in Lancashire where *(a)* more than 10 per cent. and *(b)* more than 20 per cent. of pupils do not speak English as a first language. [230268]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the tables.

LA maintained primary schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by local authority area and Lancashire. Year: January 2008 (final)

Primary schools	*England[2]*	*North West[2]*	*Lancashire*
Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English	466,420	47,120	7,331
Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[3]	14.3	10.2	9.7
Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be English	2,788,320	412,680	68,072
Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be English[3]	85.6	89.7	90.2
Unclassified[4]	6,490	560	81
Percentage unclassified	0.2	0.1	0.1
Total[2,5]	3,257,590	459,980	75,430

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] National and regional totals and totals across each local authority have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between totals and the sum of constituent parts.

[3] The number of pupils by their first language expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.

[4] Information was not sought or refused, also includes pupils where classification of first language is pending.

[5] Total number of pupils of compulsory school age and above. Excludes dually registered pupils.

Source:
School Census

State-funded secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, by local authority area and Lancashire. Year: January 2008 (final)

Secondary schools	*England[2]*	*North West[2]*	*Lancashire*
Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English	349,040	31,050	4,571
Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[3]	10.6	7.0	6.4
Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be English	2,922,790	413,740	66,542
Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be English[3]	88.9	92.7	93.4
Unclassified[4]	16,240	1,550	155
Percentage unclassified	0.5	0.3	0.2
Total[2,5]	3,288,060	446,340	71,270

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, CTCs and academies.

[2] National and regional totals and totals across each local authority have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between totals and the sum of constituent parts.

[3] The number of pupils by their first language expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.

[4] Information was not sought or refused.

[5] Total number of pupils of compulsory school age and above. Excludes dually registered pupils.

Source:
School Census

Number of schools in Lancashire with pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English. Year: January 2008 (final)

	Lancashire
Total number of schools	614
Number of schools with more than 10 percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[1]	90
O which:	
Number of schools with more than 20 percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[1]	55

[1] Pupils first language is collected for pupils of compulsory school age and above.

Note:
Includes maintained primary, state funded secondary, all special schools and pupil referral units.

Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the changes being made to the operation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal on parental confidence in the special educational needs system. [229000]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 83-84W.

Specialised Diplomas: Business

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the procedure is for businesses applying to participate in delivering diploma courses. [230057]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are many ways that employers can get involved with the diploma. Principally, they can help deliver work-related learning, including, but not restricted to, offering work experience.

Information on which diplomas are being delivered in each local authority area is available via the DCSF website. Employers can contact an Education Business Partnership Organisation (EBPO) which cover all areas of the country and exist to help employers and education to work together or, if they wish, employers can contact schools and colleges direct.

In addition to this, the Diploma Employers Champions Network (DECN) has been set up to encourage and support long-term employer involvement in the diplomas. The network is led by Sir Alan Jones of Toyota and consists of volunteer champions from a full range of employers across the English regions, including employers like Leeds city council, Vodafone, BT, Nsure, Hyatt Regency, Compass Group and Rolls-Royce.

Contact information about the Diploma Employers Champions Network is available through the DCSF website.

Specialised Diplomas: Teachers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of hours of training is that teachers have been given on the new diplomas prior to their implementation. [230051]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We do not record how many hours of training individual practitioners receive. Individual practitioners all have different starting points in terms of existing skills and knowledge, and the extensive support package enables teachers to select the amount and type of training which best suits their needs, as part of the professional development planning in their school or college. The extent to which they take up training from the comprehensive support offer that is available from a wide range of partner organisations will vary according to their particular needs. It is therefore not possible to give an average number of hours of training.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which organisations are offering training on teaching diploma courses to teachers. [230052]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The current training package brings together support from a number of different partner organisations, including the Learning and Skills Improvement Service, the National College of School Leadership, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, the National Strategies, the National Assessment Agency, the Training and Development Agency for Schools, Lifelong Learning UK, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the Diploma Development Partnerships, the National Education and Business Partnership Network (NEBPN) and the Awarding Bodies.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the syllabus is for the training of teachers on diplomas. [230053]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The package of training that is available has been designed to meet the needs of individual practitioners with different levels of skills, knowledge and understanding. It includes some core elements covering functional skills; the structure of the diploma; collaborative delivery; experience of a sector-relevant working environment; assessment; and diploma administration. The rest of the package is flexible and tailored to respond to identified need.

Teachers: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers there were per 100 pupils in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Chesterfield, (ii) Derbyshire and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [230592]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of teachers employed per 100 pupils in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Chesterfield parliamentary constituency, Derbyshire local authority and England, in January of each year, 1997 to 2008.

FTE teachers per 100 FTE pupils in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools. Years: January 1997 to 2008, Coverage: Chesterfield parliamentary constituency, Derbyshire local authority and England

	Primary			*Secondary*		
	Chesterfield	*Derbyshire*	*England*	*Chesterfield*	*Derbyshire*	*England*
1997	3.7	3.9	4.3	5.7	5.8	6.0
1998	3.7	3.8	4.2	5.5	5.6	5.9
1999	3.8	4.0	4.2	5.5	5.6	5.9
2000	3.9	4.0	4.3	5.6	5.6	5.8
2001	3.9	4.1	4.4	5.7	5.7	5.8
2002	3.8	4.0	4.4	5.5	5.8	5.9
2003	4.0	4.2	4.4	5.8	5.9	5.9
2004	4.0	4.2	4.4	5.8	5.9	5.9
2005	4.2	4.3	4.4	5.9	5.9	6.0
2006	4.4	4.4	4.5	6.0	6.0	6.0

FTE teachers per 100 FTE pupils in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools. Years: January 1997 to 2008, Coverage: Chesterfield parliamentary constituency, Derbyshire local authority and England

	Primary			*Secondary*		
	Chesterfield	*Derbyshire*	*England*	*Chesterfield*	*Derbyshire*	*England*
2007	4.5	4.6	4.6	6.0	6.0	6.1
2008	4.5	4.5	4.6	6.1	6.1	6.2

Note:
Excludes academies.
Source:
School Census

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teacher trainees on the initial teacher training course had to retake the basic *(a)* literacy, *(b)* numeracy and *(c)* IT tests (i) once, (ii) twice, (iii) three times and (iv) more than three times in each of the last 10 years; [230221]

(2) how many and what proportion of trainee teachers failed one or more times the basic *(a)* literacy, *(b)* numeracy and *(c)* IT tests during their initial teacher training in each of the last 10 years. [230271]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following tables and relates to the number of trainees who passed their skills tests after one, two or more than two attempts between 2000/01 and 2006/07.

Numeracy skills test

		Of whom:				
		Number			*Failed one or more times*	
	Total number of trainees who passed the numeracy skills test	*Passed on first attempt*	*Passed on second attempt*	*Passed after three or more attempts*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2000/01	23,420	18,950	2,560	1,910	4,470	19.1
2001/02	26,460	22,520	1,930	2,010	3,940	14.9
2002/03	29,680	24,740	2,390	2,540	4,930	16.6
2003/04	33,520	27,340	2,810	3,360	6,180	18.4
2004/05	33,970	26,960	3,310	3,690	7,000	20.6
2005/06	34,290	26,790	3,430	4,070	7,500	20.6
2006/07	34,920	26,810	3,520	4,600	8,110	23.2

Note:
Includes mainstream (universities, other higher education institutes, SCITT and Open University) as well as employment based routes.
Source:
TDA

Literacy skills test

		Of whom:				
		Number			*Failed one or more times*	
	Total number of trainees who passed the literacy skills test	*Passed on first attempt*	*Passed on second attempt*	*Passed after three or more attempts*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2000/01	23,480	21,040	1,580	860	2,450	10.4
2001/02	26,630	22,470	2,530	1,620	4,160	15.6
2002/03	29,920	25,350	2,820	1,750	4,570	15.3
2003/04	33,840	28,860	3,000	1,970	4,970	14.7
2004/05	34,400	26,930	4,410	3,060	7,470	21.7
2005/06	34,700	27,440	4,200	3,050	7,260	20.9
2006/07	35,280	28,940	3,710	2,630	6,340	18.0

Note:
Includes mainstream (universities, other higher education institutes, SCITT and Open University) as well as employment based routes.
Source:
TDA

ICT skills test

		Of whom:				
		Number			*Failed one or more times*	
	Total number of trainees who passed the ICT skills test	*Passed on first attempt*	*Passed on second attempt*	*Passed after three or more attempts*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2000/01	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001/02	26,040	23,410	2,060	580	2,630	10.1
2002/03	29,680	22,770	4,670	2,250	6,920	23.3
2003/04	33,640	29,000	3,280	1,360	4,640	13.8
2004/05	33,930	25,190	5,920	2,810	8,730	25.7

ICT skills test

		Of whom:				
		Number			*Failed one or more times*	
	Total number of trainees who passed the ICT skills test	*Passed on first attempt*	*Passed on second attempt*	*Passed after three or more attempts*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2005/06	35,270	31,420	2,130	1,720	3,850	10.9
2006/07	35,130	31,830	2,430	870	3,310	9.4

n/a = Not applicable (ICT not a requirement of QTS for this cohort).

Note:

Includes mainstream (universities, other higher education institutes, SCITT and Open University) as well as employment based routes.

Source:

TDA

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* biology, *(e)* English and *(f)* IT teacher trainees have failed one or more times the (i) literacy, (ii) numeracy and (iii) IT tests in initial teacher training in each of the last 10 years. [230270]

Jim Knight: The requested information could be produced only at a disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirement local authorities have to adopt National Indicator 35 on violent extremism as part of their Local Area Agreement. [229696]

Mr. Khan: Local authorities are not required to adopt any National Indicators (NIs) in their Local Area Agreements (LAAs). Targets in LAAs are negotiated and agreed between each local area, led by its local authority, and Government. 19 authorities have included NI35 as a designated target in their LAA. A further five areas have included NI35 as a local target.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228417]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government carried out a major upgrade to its desktop and infrastructure which was implemented between September 2007 and January 2008 which cost £2,064,000. The information relating to IT upgrades for other years and other systems is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* special advisers in her Department are permitted to access web mail accounts from departmental computers. [229760]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government allows access to web mail accounts on departmental computers. However any users accessing web mail accounts from departmental systems are required to comply with the terms of a personal commitment statement and a code of conduct specifically in relation to the use of personal data. These restrict users from using web mail for general work purposes, and clearly define the restrictions and options available for different levels of protectively marked data, including the need for encryption in some cases. Staff are not permitted to automatically forward their Communities email account to a web mail account. Breach of these policies can be a disciplinary matter.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years of age were recruited by her Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228762]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government has recruited 11 people over the age of 55 since 1 January 2007 which was 5 per cent. of total new recruits. The Department has recruited seven staff over the age of 60 which was 3 per cent. of total recruits.

Departmental Overseas Visits

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2081W, on departmental overseas visits, which division of her Department authorised each overseas visit. [230144]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government does not hold central records to identify which divisions in this Department authorised each overseas visit and there would be a disproportionate cost in obtaining this information from local managers.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of civil servants in her Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229535]

Mr. Khan: The proportion of civil servants in Communities and Local Government, including its agencies that are members of each version of the civil service pension scheme is outlined as follows:

CLG members by scheme type

	Number
Classic	1,451
Classic Plus	98
Premium	511
NUVOS	81
Partnership	4
None[1]	129
Total	2,274

[1] This figure includes staff on a casual contract and those who have opted out of the civil service pension arrangements.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Departmental Unallocated Provision for Capital DEL outlined in her Department's 2008 Annual Report on page 166, has yet been allocated in whole or in part from *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [230184]

Mr. Khan: As yet, none of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 Departmental Unallocated Provision for Capital DEL has been allocated to a programme.

Any decisions on its allocation are not expected until after the publication of next year's Annual Report and Main Estimates.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy to her Department in 2007-08. [228144]

Mr. Khan: During 2007-08 the Department spent £317,086 on hospitality. The Department does not record expenditure for entertainment on its finance system and the figures in this reply relate to the broader category of hospitality. All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The public information campaigns carried out by the Department in 2007-08 are published with costs in the Department's annual report, which is available in the Library of the House.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply to recent Freedom of Information requests which give details of the Department's expenditure with Public Relations Companies between April 2002 and 8 August 2008. These can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedomofinformation/disclosurelog/disclosurelog2008/publicrelationsfirms/

and

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedomofinformation/disclosurelog/disclosurelog2008/februaryaugustmeetings/

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the job specification of the spatial analysis co-ordinator position advertised by her Department in October 2008; [230333]

(2) how many spatial analysis co-ordinators her Department *(a)* employs and *(b)* proposes to employ. [230334]

Mr. Khan: The Department employs no spatial analysis co-ordinators. We propose to employ one. A copy of the job specification has been placed in the Library.

Equality and Diversity Partnerships

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Government Offices for the Regions gave to regional equality and diversity partnerships in the last period for which figures are available. [230323]

Mr. Khan: The Government Offices for the English Regions gave £20,000 to regional and equality and diversity partnerships in the last period for which figures are available as follows:

Government Office	*Organisation*	*£*
GO North West	Contributed to the North West's annual "Celebr8 Diversity" festival led by North West Equality and Diversity Group	5,000
GO West Midlands	Provided over the last three years to the West Midlands Strategic Partnership for Equality and Diversity	10,000
GO South West	Paid in 2007-08 to the equality and diversity partnership for a short term secondment	5,000

Fire Services: Long Service Awards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent changes have been made to the eligibility criteria for the Fire Brigade's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; what the criteria are; whether staff in the new Regional Fire Control centres are eligible for the medal; and if she will make a statement. [229706]

Mr. Khan: There have been no recent changes to the eligibility criteria for the Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, which are set out in full in the Royal Warrant. Broadly, the warrant provides that eligibility extends to members of all ranks in fire brigades and aerodrome fire services maintained by local authorities in the United Kingdom or public airport companies, members of fire brigades or services maintained by Government Departments in the UK, certain Commonwealth territories or the British Airports Authority whose conditions of employment include a liability to engage in fire-fighting, and to certain other fire service personnel who are Crown servants. Staff in the new Regional Fire Control Centres which are local authority owned companies will not be in fire brigade employment and will not be eligible.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Fire and Rescue Service Long Service and Good Conduct medals were awarded in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [229707]

Mr. Khan: For the 10 year period 1 January 1999 to 27 October 2008 14,394 Long Service and Good Conduct medals have been awarded to those eligible.

For 2008, to date (27 October 2008), 1,209 medals have been awarded.

For the previous nine years, 1999 to 2007 inclusive, the number of medals awarded were:

	Number
2007	1,507
2006	1,641
2005	1,308
2004	1,451
2003	972
2002	1,392
2001	903
2000	1,282
1999	2,729

Firebuy Ltd.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the board members of *(a)* Firebuy Ltd and *(b)* the Community Development Foundation are. [230320]

Mr. Khan: The board members of Firebuy Ltd. are: Liz Barron (Chair), Elizabeth Bennett, Karen Dodd, Anthony Duggan, Paul Fuller, George Herbert, Martin Kitchen, Robert Light, David Rowe and Colin Tandy.

The board members of the Community Development Foundation are: Tom Levitt MP (Chair), Suhail Aziz, Liz Bickerton, Michael Hamilton, Abdul Ismail, Jagwant Johal, Peter Latchford, Ruth Lister, Stewart Murdoch, Andrew Robinson, Dan Rogerson MP, Marilyn Taylor, Alison Wightman, Hilary Willmer and Jeremy Wright MP.

Housing: Disadvantaged

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* least deprived and *(b)* most deprived lower layer super output area is in (i) Barry, (ii) Blackpool, (iii) Bognor Regis, (iv) Bournemouth, (v) Bridlington, (vi) Brighton, (vii) Burnham-on-Sea, (viii) Clacton, (ix) Conwy, (x) Dawlish/Teignmouth, (xi) Deal, (xii) Eastbourne, (xiii) Exmouth, (xiv) Falmouth, (xv) Folkestone/Hythe, (xvi) Great Yarmouth, (xvii) Hastings/Bexhill, (xviii) Ilfracombe, (xix) Isle of Wight, (xx) Lowestoft, (xxi) Minehead, (xxii) Morecambe/Heysham, (xxiii) Newquay, (xxiv) Penzance, (xxv) Porthcawl, (xxvi) Rhyl, (xxvii) Scarborough, (xxviii) Sidmouth, (xxix) Skegness, (xxx) Southend-on-Sea, (xxxi) Southport, (xxxii) St Ives, (xxxiii) Swanage, (xxxiv) Thanet, (xxxv) Torbay, (xxxvi) Weston-super-Mare, (xxxvii) Weymouth, (xxxviii) Whitby, (xxxix) Whitley Bay, (xl) Whitstable/Herne Bay and (xli) Worthing. [228681]

John Healey: The following table lists the codes for the least and most deprived lower super output areas in the English towns listed in the original question. We do not hold information on deprivation in Welsh towns.

Town	*LA*	*Most Deprived ESOA*	*Least Deprived LSOA*
Blackpool	Blackpool	E01012721	E01012718
Bognor Regis	Aran	E01031456	E01031383
Bournemouth	Bournemouth	E01015282	E01015315
Bridlington	East Riding of Yorkshire	E01012948	E01013093
Brighton	Brighton and Hove	E01016947	E01016984
Burnham-on-Sea	Sedgemoor	E01029106	E01029104
Clacton	Tendring	E01021988	E01022005
Dawlish/Teignmouth	Teignbridge	E01020272	E01020239
Deal	Dover	E01024240	E01024233
Eastbourne	Eastbourne	E01020912	E01020933
Exmouth	East Devon	E01019914	E01019931
Falmouth	Carrick	E01018841	E01018848
Folkestone/Hythe	Shepway	E01024504	E01024523
Great Yarmouth	Great Yarmouth	E01026625	E01026587
Hastings/Bexhill	Hastings	E01020972	E01020970
Ilfracombe	North Devon	E01020112	E01020090
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight	E01017332	E01017352
Lowestoft	Waveney	E01030258	E01030284
Minehead	West Somerset	EO1029344	E01029331
Morecambe/Heysham	Lancaster	E01025110	E01025146
Newquay	Restormel	E01019056	E01019017
Penzance	Penwith	E01018997	E01018985
Scarborough	Scarborough	E01027806	E01027844
Sidmouth	East Devon	E01019914	E01019931
Skegness	East Lindsey	E01026093	E01026063
Southend-on-Sea	Southend-on-Sea	E01015842	E01015908
Southport	Sefton	E01007007	E01006985

Town	*LA*	*Most Deprived ESOA*	*Least Deprived LSOA*
St Ives	East Dorset	E01020393	E01020377
St Ives	Penwith	E01018997	E01018985
Swanage	Purbeck	E01020489	E01020470
Thanet	Thanet	E01024678	E01024708
Torbay.	Torbay	E01015217	E01015208
Weston-super-Mare	North Somerset	E01014831	E01014798
Weymouth	Weymouth and Portland	E01020554	E01020558
Whitby	Scarborough	E01027806	E01027844
Whitley Bay	North Tyneside	E01008485	E01008523
Whitstable/Herne Bay	Canterbury	E01024080	E01024056
Worthing.	Worthing	E01031819	EO1031824

Housing: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets have been set for house building in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency and *(b)* East Sussex in the next planning period. [229995]

Mr. Khan: Targets for the next planning period 2006-26 will be covered in the new South East Plan when it has been finalised. Proposed changes to the Draft South East Plan (consultation closed on 24 October 2008) set out a requirement for 4,800 dwellings for Eastbourne and 42,400 for East Sussex over the 20 year life of the Plan.

Keep Our Future Afloat Campaign

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding the Northwest Regional Development Agency provided to the campaign group Keep our Future Afloat, in each year since 2005. [227375]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The amount of funding provided by the Northwest Regional Development Agency to the campaign group Keep Our Future Afloat in each year since 2005 is detailed in the following table:

	£
2005	25,287.62
2006	50,000
2007	50,000
2008	100,000
Total	225,287.62

Local Government Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much local authority income in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority in England came from (i) revenue support grant, (ii) specific and special grants, (iii) capital receipts, (iv) fees, rents and charges, (v) council tax, (vi) external interest receipts, (vii) housing revenue accounts and (viii) redistributed non-domestic rates in each year since 1997. [229888]

John Healey: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Government: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals responded to the consultation on the date of the 2009 local elections; and what the name is of each which did not request confidentiality. [230715]

John Healey: As I announced in the written statement I made to the House on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 8WS, I placed in the Library of the House a document summarising the representations we received and setting out the Government's response.

In addition I have today placed in the Library of the House a full list of the organisations and individuals who responded to the consultation and did not request confidentiality.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to clause 5 of the draft Local Elections (Ordinary Day of Elections in 2009) Order 2008, for what reason it is proposed that the provisions on elections to fill casual vacancies should commence seven rather than six months before the June 2009 elections. [231024]

John Healey: The approach that we have adopted in light of representations received, including from the Local Government Association, provides more clarity and certainty for returning officers as to when the period during which casual vacancies do not need to be filled starts. The date will be 7 November whether the election is held in May or June. This replicates the approach taken for the 2004 elections.

Local Government: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been paid *(a)* by (i) employees and (ii) employers into and *(b)* to those receiving pensions payments by the local government pension scheme in each of the last five years. [229352]

John Healey: Details of how much has been paid into the Local Government Pension Scheme by both employees and employers, as well how much has been paid to those receiving pensions payments, in each of the last five years, can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/pensions.htm.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the annual change in the cost to the public purse of the 2006 changes to *(a)* the local government pension scheme and *(b)* the firefighters' pension scheme; and if she will make a statement. [229490]

John Healey: Reforms to the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales took effect from 1 April 2008 based on benchmark costs provided by the Government Actuary's Department and agreed with key stakeholders, within a total cost envelope of 19.5 per cent. of total pensionable payroll. The net assumed annual savings arising from the reforms in respect of future accrual of pension rights is estimated at some 1.3 per cent. of pensionable payroll, which was estimated to be some £30 billion for the year 2007-08.

For the firefighters' pension schemes, reforms to their ill health pension arrangements have resulted in current savings of an estimated 2 per cent. of pensionable pay. The introduction of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme for all new entrants from April 2006 achieves a further 0.6 per cent. of estimated current savings, together with longer term savings from a reduction in employers' contributions from 26.5 per cent. to 14.2 per cent. of pensionable pay.

Local Government: Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government further to the Community Empowerment White Paper, what the minimum percentage of local residents required to sign a petition will be to require *(a)* a referendum on an elected mayor and *(b)* a full council debate to take place. [230722]

Mr. Khan: The White Paper "Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power", stated that the Department for Communities and Local Government will consult on reducing the threshold for a petition to trigger a referendum on an elected mayor from the current 5 per cent. of voters to perhaps 2, 3 or 4 per cent. of local electors.

The Local Petitions and Calls for Action Consultation: Government Response stated that local authorities should set their own thresholds for triggering debates about petitions on local issues, but these thresholds should at most be 5 per cent. of the local population.

Local Government: Suffolk

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether county council elections will take place in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* Ipswich in 2009. [229718]

John Healey: The statutory framework for local elections established by the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, provides that in 2009 there will be elections to Suffolk county council and no elections to Ipswich borough council.

New Dimension Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the report by Nera UK Ltd. on the economic benefits of the New Dimension programme. [229678]

Mr. Khan: The report will be placed in the Library of the House when completed, planned for February 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates: Public Houses

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether licensed premises which diversify under the Pub is the Hub scheme would receive a revised business rates valuation on their additional, diversified services. [229721]

John Healey: The additional services provided under the Pub is the Hub scheme may or may not result in a revised rateable value in respect the subject property. This will depend on the extent of the services provided and any modifications undertaken to the property. Each case will be considered in the light of full discussion between the Valuation Officer and the ratepayer.

Place Surveys

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether new Place Surveys will be conducted by *(a)* face-to-face interview or *(b)* correspondence. [230321]

Mr. Khan: The Place Survey will be conducted using a postal methodology.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of her call-in policy for planning applications. [230713]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) on 16 June 1999, *Official Report*, column 138, which sets out the Government's call-in policy for planning applications.

Rates and Rating

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* council tax or community charge and *(b)* non-domestic rate revenue was written off in England in each year since 1985. [229886]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 478W, about council tax write offs.

Details of the amount of non-domestic rates written off each year since 1996-97 can be found in table 2.3e of "Local Government Financial Statistics England No.13

2002" & table 2.3j of "Local Government Financial Statistics England No.18 2008" both of which are available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.htm.

The amounts written off relate to council tax or non-domestic rates payable for both the current year and for previous years.

Some authorities net off against write-offs moneys collected that had previously been written off. This can result in a negative total figure for amounts written off in a particular year.

Rates and Rating: Tax Collection

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the collection rates of *(a)* council tax or community charge and *(b)* non-domestic rates were in England in each year since 1985. [229887]

John Healey: Details of the collection rates of council tax and non-domestic rates are published in both Statistical Releases and "Local Government Financial Statistics England". Data for 2003-04 to 2007-08 are available in a Statistical Release available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/cp078.htm.

Data prior to 2003-04 are available in issues of "Local Government Financial Statistics England" copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Copies of "Local Government Financial Statistics England" No. 11 2000 onwards are also available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.htm.

Collection of council taxes and non-domestic rates continues once the financial year to which they relate has ended. This means that the percentage collected will eventually be higher than the figure shown.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on individual local authorities to make provision for sites for *(a)* permanent and *(b)* transient Travellers. [230264]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Act (2004) requires local housing authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their area.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments provide information about the need for long-term residential Gypsy and Traveller pitches and short-term transit pitches and temporary stopping places within the assessment area. These assessments are used by regional planning bodies to inform regional spatial strategies, which will set out the number of pitches that must be provided in each local planning authority area. Planning authorities are in turn required to allocate specific land for the required pitches in development plan documents. These pitches may be provided by the local authority, a registered social landlord, or privately.

Local planning authorities need not await the publication of pitch numbers in regional spatial strategies to take steps to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. We expect authorities where there is clear and pressing need for accommodation (both residential and transit) to take action now.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many agencies were sponsored by his Department or its predecessor in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228504]

Barbara Follett: The "Next Steps Report 1997" (Cm3889) provides information on all Executive agencies as at 31 December 1997. Copies are available from the Library of the House. The most up-to-date list of Executive agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication "The List of Ministerial Responsibilities". The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230211]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport the following sanctions are available for staff found to have committed disciplinary offences.

The withdrawal or withholding of pay increases and/or bonus payments (in whole or in part);

Suspension from duty with loss of pay for a specified period ;

A ban on promotion (including temporary promotion and deputising) for a specified period;

The removal from a post attracting additional pay or allowances;

Downgrading;

Dismissal; and

A formal written warning.

One member of staff was dismissed during 2007-08 for committing a disciplinary offence. No other sanctions have been used in the last three years.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229160]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is currently implementing an IT programme that provides electronic document and record management, electronic content management and secure collaboration. This programme is due to complete by 31 March 2009 and is estimated to cost £1.5 million.

The Royal Parks Agency is undertaking a number of projects as part of tranche 1 of their ICT change programme. The most recent estimate and completion date of each project is as follows:

Project	*Completion date*	*£*
Quick Wins	Completed September 2008	11,903
Estates Licensing Upgrade	Completed August 2008	9,129
Business Systems Governance	Completed July 2008	19,398
Training/Change Management	Completion March 2009	142,492
Upgrade Sports Booking system	Deferred—July 2008	23,766
ICT Service improvement	Completion October 2008	87,785
Desktop/laptop replacement	Completed September 2008	323,793
Remote Working	Completion April 2009	137,837
LAN infrastructure upgrade	Completed September 2008	86,191
Server infrastructure upgrade	Completed September 2008	268,022
Intranet/ Collaboration tool	Deferred—July 2008	1,314
Telephony	Completion April 2009	53,358
Refresh Trim EDRMS	Completed September 2008	213,992
Mobile Working	Deferred—July2008	11,799

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228412]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has spent the following upgrading its IT in the last three financial years:

	£
2005-06	997,108
2006-07	1,825,922
2007-08	1,892,660

Institute for Contemporary Arts

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding is being provided to the Institute for Contemporary Arts (ICA) expressed *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a percentage of the overall budget of the ICA in 2008-09. [229270]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England is the national development agency for the arts in England, and as such, is responsible for distributing public money from the Government and the National Lottery to artists and arts organisations. It makes all arts funding decisions at "arm's length" from Government, and has provided the following information on its support of the Institute for Contemporary Arts (ICA).

For the financial year 2008-09, (a) Arts Council England is providing £1,357,370 to the ICA, which (b) is reflected as 19.5 per cent. of ICA's overall income for the same year.

National Lottery: Sport

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much National Lottery funding was awarded to sport-related groups in *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* Test Valley Borough in each of the last five years. [229562]

Barbara Follett: Sport England and Big Lottery Fund have advised that the information provided in the following table shows the value of funding delivered to sport related groups in the Southampton local authority area. The figures are given for BIG (and its predecessor bodies: New Opportunities Fund and Community Fund) as well as Awards For All. Sport England's funding is provided in the last column.

£

Southampton local authority area	*BIG (and predecessor bodies)*	*Awards For All*	*Sport England*
2003-04	583,134.00	19,090.00	759,810.00
2004-05	1,871,817.00	9,000.00	481,762.00
2005-06	75,960.00	13,524.00	815,732.00
2006-07	113,940.00	20,911.00	350,000.00
2007-08	—	24,230.00	72,976.00

The following table shows the value of funding delivered to sport related groups in the Test Valley local authority area. The figures are given for BIG (and its predecessor bodies: New Opportunities Fund and Community Fund) as well as Awards For All. Sport England's funding is provided in the last column.

£

Test Valley local authority area	*BIG (and predecessor bodies)*	*Awards For All*	*Sport England*
2003-04	—	9,466.00	452,000.00
2004-05	—	9,039.00	95,000.00
2005-06	—	9,350.00	—
2006-07	94,950.00	12,316.00	—
2007-08	—	24,340.00	—

Olympic Games 2012: Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on the development of a non-commercial brand intended to take advantage of the tourism benefits of hosting the Olympic games in 2012; what use small tourism businesses will be able to make of the branding; and if he will make a statement. [230083]

Barbara Follett: The DCMS and VisitBritain have been actively working with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) to produce effective, non-commercial branding for use by tourism businesses.

The result is a toolkit for use by tourism organisations in the private and public sector, based on a "Be a Part of It" strapline and drawing on effective visual images of London and the UK. This has so far been approved by LOCOG for international use only. The DCMS, VisitBritain and LOCOG are currently seeking to agree a similar branding package for domestic use. The nations and regions of the UK will be fully involved.

Overseas Visitors

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many visits from overseas to *(a)* the UK and *(b)* England there were in each year since 1997; and what percentage of the world market for tourism each figure represents. [230081]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain is the Government-sponsored tourism body responsible for promoting Britain as a tourist destination to overseas markets, and England as a tourist destination to the domestic market. VisitBritain has provided the following information:

Visits to the UK since 1997 and percentage of global market share

	Number of visits (million)	*Global market share (percentage)*
1997	25.515	3.92
1998	25.745	3.88
1999	25.394	3.68
2000	25.209	3.41
2001	22.835	3.08
2002	24.180	3.18
2003	24.715	3.30
2004	27.755	3.37
2005	29.971	3.49
2006	32.713	3.62
2007	32.778	3.40

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

Visits to England since 1997 and percentage of global market share

	Number of visits (million)	*Global market share (percentage)*
1997	19.5	3.30
1998	20.2	3.30
1999	19.8	3.12
2000	19.8	2.91
2001	17.8	2.61
2002	19.0	2.71
2003	19.5	2.82
2004	21.9	2.87
2005	23.7	2.95
2006	25.9	3.06
2007	26.2	2.88

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much visitors from overseas to *(a)* the UK and *(b)* England spent in each year since 1997; and what percentage of global tourism spending each figure represents. [230082]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain is the Government-sponsored tourism body responsible for promoting Britain as a tourist destination to overseas markets, and England as a tourist destination to the domestic market. VisitBritain has provided the following information:

Spend in the UK since 1997

	Overall visitor spend (£ billion)	*Global market share (Percentage)*
1997	12.244	4.53
1998	12.671	4.72
1999	12.498	4.42
2000	12.805	4.08
2001	11.306	3.51
2002	11.737	3.66
2003	11.855	3.66
2004	13.047	3.78
2005	14.248	3.81
2006	16.002	3.97
2007	15.196	3.72

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

Spend in England since 1997

	Overall visitor spend (£ million)	*Global market share*
1997	13,917	3.24
1998	13,890	3.45
1999	12,410	3.32
2000	11,442	3.31
2001	10,515	3.25
2002	10,422	3.25
2003	10,051	3.12
2004	11,473	3.66
2005	11,148	3.94
2006	11,315	4.21
2007	10,885	4.03

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

Sex Establishments: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations the Government have received on changes to licensing laws associated with lap dancing establishments. [228890]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* My Department has received a number of general inquiries from hon. Members, local authorities, interest groups and members of the public on the subject of lap dancing. I wrote to chief executives of local authorities on 18 June 2008 to clarify the powers available under the Licensing Act 2003 and to seek their views on whether these, and other controls, are sufficient to respond to the concerns of local people. This attracted 117 responses, the majority of which felt that additional legislation should be introduced to provide controls which are specific to lap dancing and similar premises.

The Home Secretary, who leads on this issue because of her wider responsibilities for public indecency, sexual exploitation and prostitution announced in September that the Government would seek to amend existing legislation to give communities and local authorities greater powers to control the opening and regulation of lap-dancing clubs.

A separate Home Office consultation on Government proposals in relation to control of the sex industry, including the regulation of lap-dancing clubs, closed on 8 October 2008 and received 67 responses. These came from a variety of organisations from the third sector, local authorities and the industry.

Sports: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* Exchequer and *(b)* Lottery money was given to the street athletics initiative in each year since its inception. [230850]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that they funded two street athletics projects in the London region in 2007 and one regional project in 2008. All three were Lottery funded awards with a total value of £551,000.

Region	*Recipient*	*Project title*	*Award Date*	*Financial year*	*Award (£)*	*Project cost (£)*	*Programme name*
London	Nuff Respect	Street Athletics	29 June 2007	2007-08	150,000	383,000	National Programme
London	London South Bank University	Street Athletics	22 June 2007	2007-08	96,000	212,000	Community Programme
National	Nuff Respect	Street Athletics	1 September 2008	2008-09	305,000	305,000	National Programme

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coal

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people were employed in the UK coal industry in each of the last five years. [227167]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As reported to the Coal Authority in its role as licensing authority, employment in the coal industry at the close of each of the last five years was as follows:

	Number
2003-04	8,365
2004-05	7,109
2005-06	5,903
2006-07	5,411
2007-08	5,402

Coal: Prices

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of likely trends in the price of coal for domestic heating use in the next three years. [228125]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The Government have made no assessment of the price of coal for domestic heating use in the next three years. Coal is an internationally traded commodity and prices are set in international markets. Changes in globally traded coal prices will tend to feed into coal prices for domestic use.

Community Energy Saving Programme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the timetable is for the introduction of the Community Energy Saving Programme. [226972]

Joan Ruddock: We will be taking measures under the Climate Change Bill to provide the legislative framework for the Community Energy Saving Programme. Royal Assent to the Climate Change Bill is expected during the current parliamentary session. We will then consult on the detailed provisions of the programme and bring forward the relevant secondary legislation.

Electricity Generation

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of UK electricity was generated from *(a)* coal, *(b)* nuclear power, *(c)* renewable sources and *(d)* gas in each of the last five years. [227169]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The percentage shares of UK electricity generation by coal, nuclear, renewables and gas, from 2003 to 2007 are given in the following table:

	Total electricity generation in the UK	*Coal-fired electricity generation in the UK*		*Nuclear electricity generation in the UK*		*Renewables sourced electricity generation in the UK*		*Gas-fired electricity generation in the UK*	
	GWh	*GWh*	*Percentage share of total*	*GWh*	*Percentage share of total*	*GWh*	*Percentage share of total*	*GWh*	*Percentage share of total*
2003	398,209	138,305	34.7	88,686	22.3	10,600	2.7	148,881	37.4
2004	393,867	131,788	33.5	79,999	20.3	14,147	3.6	157,064	39.9
2005	398,313	134,841	33.9	81,618	20.5	16,940	4.3	152,642	38.3
2006	398,823	150,392	37.7	75,451	18.9	18,116	4.5	141,225	35.4
2007	396,457	136,545	34.4	63,028	15.9	19,664	5.0	164,473	41.5

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2008, Tables 5.6 and 7.4.

Energy: Metering

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how long he expects the work evaluation of smart meters to take; who is conducting the evaluation; and when he expects to take the next steps towards wider installation of smart meters. [226943]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* The Government published a response to their 2007 consultation on energy billing and metering in April this year. At that stage, the economic impact assessment did not indicate a positive case for a roll-out of smart metering to all domestic customers. However, in a project of this scale the figures carry a high degree of uncertainty and many of the benefits are difficult to quantify in monetary terms. Officials have therefore been undertaking further work with stakeholders, including contracting some independent consultancy work, to ensure that the Government have the best possible understanding of costs, benefits and issues relating to smart metering. The intention is for Ministers to take a decision soon on whether to roll-out smart meters to domestic customers.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made in requiring electricity and gas suppliers to provide advanced meters to electricity customers in Profile 5-8 and gas customers with annual consumption above 732MWh by 2013; and if he will make a statement. [225365]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In July 2008, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform consulted on final proposals to ensure that these customers would be provided with advanced metering by 31 December 2013. This consultation closed on 5 September. My Department will shortly issue its response to this consultation, with a final licence modification, with a view to having the new arrangements in place in January 2009, subject to the passage of the Energy Bill.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what additional monitoring the Government is undertaking of the effects on *(a)* payment method preference, *(b)* levels of debt and *(c)* levels of disconnections of domestic energy consumers of (i) recent and (ii) anticipated increases in energy prices; and how much the Government has allocated to provide domestic energy customers with energy efficiency advice and information. [225279]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government publish price data in their Quarterly Energy Prices publication. This publication includes price data sourced from the RPI produced by the Office for National Statistics and bills information from the new Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). This information can be found online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html

Data of historical trends can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/prices/tables/page18125.html

No information is published on anticipated changes in energy prices.

The industry regulator, the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) is responsible for monitoring and providing information about levels of use of particular payment methods, customer debt and disconnections. This information will reflect, among other things, the impact of price increases. Ofgem publishes this information quarterly. The report for the first quarter of 2008 is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=47&refer=Sustainability/SocAction/Monitoring/SoObMonitor

An annual report is also published, available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Monitoring/SoObMonitor/Documents1/Suppliers%20Social%20Obligations%20Monitoring%20Report%202007%2011208.pdf

DECC has provided grant funding to the Energy Saving Trust year-on-year, supporting the work it undertakes to encourage and promote the sustainable and efficient use of energy. DEFRA has provided the Energy Saving Trust with £35.2 million for 2008-09 which includes funding for the Act on CO_2 advice line and the roll-out of their regional advice centres.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria underpin his Department's definition of fuel poverty; what public surveys his Department and its predecessor have conducted of the extent and impact of fuel poverty; which 10 parliamentary constituencies contain the highest number of fuel poor; and what plans he has to increase public access to resources to combat fuel poverty. [226252]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10 per cent. of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate level of warmth (usually defined as 21 degrees for the main living area, and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms). This broad definition of fuel costs also includes modelled spending on water heating, lights, appliances and cooking.

The survey that provides the source data for modelling fuel poverty is the English Housing Survey (known as the English House Conditions Survey to 2008), conducted by Communities and Local Government (CLG). The survey data is modelled and combined with prices to produce energy costs and incomes, the main variables of the fuel poverty ratio.

Annual progress reports on the Fuel Poverty Strategy, the 2008 version of which was recently published:

http://wwwiberr.gov.uk/files/file48036.pdf

gives more information on progress tackling, and the impact of, fuel poverty.

Fuel poverty is not calculated at a parliamentary constituency level.

The Government already have a range of measures in place to help tackle fuel poverty, and on 11 September the Prime Minister announced an ambitious new £1 billion National Home Energy Saving Programme to help domestic consumers cut their energy bills permanently. Within this, we are expanding the existing obligation on energy suppliers to install energy efficiency measures in households. This will mean a further £560 million energy supplier investment in British housing, to save energy and to reduce bills to households. 40 per cent. of these measures have to be installed in a priority group of low income and elderly households.

In addition the Government will consult on legislation for a new £350 million obligation on energy suppliers and electricity generators to undertake community-based energy efficiency measures. Other measures in the package include a £74 million increase to the budget for Warm

Front (the Government scheme in England, offering insulation, heating and energy efficiency measures to low income and pensioner households on eligible benefits); and an increase in cold weather payments this winter from £8.50 to £25 a week. To make sure people across the country can take advantage of the help on offer and save as much money as possible, a national TV, press and online social marketing campaign is publicising what help is available.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many individual contractors have been appointed to carry out work under the Warm Front scheme. [228395]

Joan Ruddock: There are currently 139 companies registered to carry out work for the Warm Front scheme.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessments are carried out before appointing contractors to carry out work under the Warm Front scheme. [228396]

Joan Ruddock: Eaga plc, the main contractor for the Warm Front Scheme, manages the appointment of all contractors to the scheme and complies with EU procurement regulations for all contracted works. The regulations require that offers to tender are placed in the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU).

Installers interested in working on the Warm Front Scheme are entered into a fair and transparent competitive tender process. Fundamental to the process are an interrogation of installer policy, compliance with instructions, professional qualification and financial security. Policies interrogated include:

health and safety;

quality assurance;

customer care;

training;

environmental and waste reduction; and

qualification to professionally recognised standards such as Corgi, NICEIC, BBA, dependant on measure(s) bid for.

Given the vulnerable customer base the scheme serves, the bar is set extremely high in terms of safety, customer care and financial probity.

Eaga continually reviews its contractor base and is always willing to receive expressions of interest. The next round of tendering is due to begin on 3 November 2008.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in how many and what proportion of cases the cost of Warm Front work recommended exceeded the available grant in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* nationally and resulted in the householder being asked to pay an excess amount in the latest period for which figures are available. [228397]

Joan Ruddock: The following table illustrates the number of households qualifying for assistance through the Warm Front Scheme and the number of client contributions requested over the period 1 April 2008 and 31 August 2008 in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* England.

Area	*Households qualifying for assistance*	*Households requested to contribute to costs*	*Percentage of contribution requests of all qualifying households*
Leicester, East	455	161	35
Leicester, South	339	105	31
Leicester, West	253	82	32
(a) Leicester all	1,047	348	33
(b) England all	104,507	26,074	25

We are unable to break these figures down any further.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many former miners' compensation claims cases are awaiting responses in Scotland, broken down by constituency. [226592]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* In Scotland, there are 1,037 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) claims that have not had a first time offer or denial and 953 COPD claims where offers have been made to which a response is awaited.

For vibration white finger (VWF), only 50 claims in the UK in total have not had a first time offer or denial and 216 VWF claims where offers have been made to which a response is awaited.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average settlement has been for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger claims submitted by the 10 solicitors' firms which have submitted the greatest number of claims under the Coal Miners' Compensation Scheme. [226639]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The average settlement for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vibration white finger (VWF) by the 10 claimants' representatives who have submitted the greatest number of claims is shown in the following tables as at 5 October 2008:

COPD

Claimants' representative	*Total claims*	*Total claims settled by payment*	*Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£)*
Beresfords Solicitors	80,820	60,322	2,508

COPD

Claimants' representative	*Total claims*	*Total claims settled by payment*	*Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£)*
Thompsons Solicitors	58,129	44,731	9,173
Hugh James	56,810	41,080	7,231
Raleys Solicitors	48,903	34,698	5,947
Browell Smith and Co.	32,986	24,193	6,431
Avalon Solicitors	32,414	18,917	2,263
Mark Gilbert Morse	25,725	20,109	7,412
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	16,588	13,712	3,105
Barber and Co.	14,089	11,224	2,759
Watson Burton LLP	14,072	12,350	4,358

VWF

Claimants representative	*Total claims*	*Total claims settled by payment*	*Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£)*
Thompsons Solicitors	21,228	16,820	16,341
Browell Smith and Co.	16,463	11,875	10,780
Beresfords Solicitors	11,619	7,236	10,381
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	11,521	9,931	10,593
Raleys Solicitors	11,279	9,868	12,273
Hugh James	10,637	8,513	11,275
Graysons Solicitors	8,700	7,153	15,520
Moss Solicitors	7,398	5,016	10,476
Watson Burton LLP	5,935	5,020	17,047
Towells Solicitors	5,367	4,193	12,416

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was claimed under the Coal Miners' Compensation Scheme by *(a)* former miners and *(b)* former miners' families in Scotland in each of the last three years. [226763]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 14 October 2008]*: The following table lists compensation paid to former miners and their families under the Coal Miners' Compensation Schemes in Scotland in each of the last three years. For completeness we have also provided similar data on 2008 to date and the period prior to 2005.

			£
	Paid to miners	*Paid to miners' families*	*Total*
COPD claims as at 12 October 2008			
2005 (pre)	38,296,226	75,257,346	113,553,572
2005	17,339,241	31,820,711	49,159,952
2006	5,697,733	29,554,138	35,251,871
2007	1,266,660	16,436,719	17,703,379
2008 (to date)	520,961	7,474,888	7,995,849
Total	63,120,821	160,543,802	223,664,623
VWF claims as at 12 October 2008			
2005 (pre)	65,270,543	6,751,087	72,021,629
2005	11,443,169	2,420,652	13,863,820
2006	10,430,048	3,775,891	14,205,939
2007	15,289,086	1,798,400	17,087,486
2008 (to date)	12,404,982	868,395	13,273,376
Total	114,837,827	15,614,424	130,452,251

Nuclear Power Stations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the potential impact on the price of electricity of proposals by energy companies to build new nuclear power stations. [225497]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department published an analysis of the cost of nuclear power compared with alternative forms of generation as part of the 2006 Energy Review. The analysis is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39525.pdf.

It showed that nuclear is the cheapest low carbon generation option and will help us to meet our carbon dioxide reduction targets at least cost.

The analysis did not cover the impact of new nuclear power stations on the price of electricity. This is determined by a variety of factors in the wholesale market, in particular the marginal source of generation, which is usually a fossil fuel generator.

Nuclear Power: Safety

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral response to the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 628W, what consideration the Government has given to risks other than those of safety in planning of nuclear expansion. [225875]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government committed to an extensive public consultation last year on the future of nuclear power. The consultation document 'Future of Nuclear Power' which we published in May last year and the Nuclear White Paper published in January set out in detail how the Government had carefully considered the issues in relation to nuclear energy.

In addition to the safety issue, these documents explain how we have considered matters related to: economics, security, health, non-proliferation, transport, waste and decommissioning, ethics, the environment, supply of nuclear fuel, supply chain and skills capacity and reprocessing.

Oil: Prices

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Government is taking to ensure that falls in the price of oil are passed on to drivers via the pump price. [227362]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* The Government believe that efficient and competitive markets for wholesale and retail fuel are the most effective means to pass falls in the oil price on to drivers. In order to ensure competitive pricing, the Office of Fair Trading monitors the UK petrol and diesel market. It is empowered to act if the price level appears to be the result of anti-competitive behaviour. The best way of ensuring a competitive market is for consumers to shop around to support trades who reduce prices and punish those who do not by not buying there.

Radioactive Materials

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will instruct the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to release the full unredacted version of the macro-economic study of United Kingdom plutonium and uranium stocks and options for future management. [226939]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* I do not intend to instruct the NDA to release the full version of their Uranium and Plutonium: Macro-Economic Study paper as it contains security and commercial information that is restricted. The public version of the document has since been supplemented by the NDA's Plutonium Options Paper that was recently published on their website.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the annual budget of his Department *(a)* is in 2008-09 and *(b)* will be in 2009-10; how much of the budget in each year is attributable to the costs of nuclear decommissioning and the handling of nuclear waste; and if he will make a statement. [227240]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* The machinery of government changes of 3 October 2008 announced the creation of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, formed from the Energy Group located in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Climate Change Group located in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will transfer their budgets for energy and climate change respectively to the new Department, based on the settlements agreed in the comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07), for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The annual budgets for the Department of Energy and Climate Change will be agreed in due course.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) ensures that civil nuclear sites are managed, decommissioned and cleaned up safely, securely, cost-effectively and in ways that protect the environment. The NDA was assigned a programme budget of £1.53 billion in the comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07) for 2008-09, and £1.61 billion for 2009-10.

Renewable Energy: Standards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the timescale is for issuing a statement on the proportion of the 2020 renewables target to be met by *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales. [227009]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government will publish a new Renewable Energy Strategy in spring 2009. The strategy will set out how we will meet the UK's share of the 2020 target, and may include scenarios for geographical distribution.

Warm Front Scheme

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was spent under the Warm Front Scheme on improving the energy efficiency of park home residents in 2006-07. [229914]

Joan Ruddock: Although Warm Front does provide measures to park home properties, we do not classify these properties separately in our records, and therefore do not hold accessible data on the total spend for park homes.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress the Government made in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* in the first nine months of 2008 on meeting the targets arising under the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [227586]

Joan Ruddock: Tackling fuel poverty is a priority for the Government. Since 2000, the Government have spent £20 billion on fuel poverty benefits and programmes. The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy was published in November 2001 and sets out the approach of the Government (and the Devolved Administrations) for tackling fuel poverty. The latest version of the Fuel Poverty Strategy reflects the requirements of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act to do all that is reasonably practicable to end fuel poverty amongst the vulnerable by 2010.

From 1996 to 2004, the Government made good progress with 4 million households lifted out of fuel poverty as a result of our energy efficiency programmes, falling energy prices and rising incomes.

The 2005 figures show fuel poverty levels were also significantly below 1996 levels with approximately 2.5 million households in fuel poverty, of which an estimated 2 million were vulnerable, although these figures do show an increase in fuel poverty of 0.5 million since 2004, reflecting the impact of rising energy prices.

The Government's Sixth Annual Progress Report on Fuel Poverty was published on 2 October 2008. It shows that in 2006 there were approximately 3.5 million households in fuel poverty across the UK, an increase of 1 million households since 2005. Around 2.75 million of these are vulnerable households (containing children, the elderly or a person who is disabled or suffering from a long-term illness).

In England, the overall number of households estimated to be in fuel poverty in 2006 is 2.4 million of which around 1.9 million are vulnerable. This represents a rise of 900,000 households since 2005 and a rise of 700,000 vulnerable households over the same period.

The rise in the number of households in fuel poverty during 2006 was due to increases in consumer energy prices. The overall cost of energy to domestic consumers rose by 22 per cent. in real terms between 2005 and 2006, with gas prices rising by 29 per cent. and electricity prices rising by 19 per cent.

Official figures for 2007 will not be available until next year, however indicative projections for 2007 and 2008 were published in the Sixth Annual Progress Report, copies of which have been placed in the Library. The projections made for 2007 in England show that further price rises are likely to have pushed a further 0.7 million households into fuel poverty, which would mean a total of around 3.1 million households. Projections for 2008 show a further increase in fuel poverty for England of around 0.5 million households; this amounts to a total of around 3.6 million households. These projections are based on known price changes along with estimates for income and energy efficiency improvements.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the fuel poverty strategy required by the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 was published; what changes have been made to it since publication; what discussions he has had with energy companies on it since its publication; what discussions he has had with HM Treasury on the strategy; what recent representations he has received on it; and if he will make a statement. [227587]

Joan Ruddock: The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy was published in November 2001. It sets out the approach of the Government (and the Devolved Administrations) to tackling fuel poverty. It defined the interim target "to seek an end to the blight of fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010."

In September 2002, a joint consultation was issued by Defra and the then-DTI seeking views on proposals to clarify the duties provided for in the Fuel Poverty Strategy for England. The revision to the FPS was announced in December 2002.

Following the December 2002 revision, the Fuel Poverty Strategy in relation to England now states:

> "In England, the Government as far as reasonably practicable will seek an end to fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010." The "as far as reasonably practicable" qualification was introduced into the interim target in order better to reflect the nature of the commitment which the Government had undertaken in relation to the final target. It emphasises that the Government could not be committed, in the interim, to the eradication of fuel poverty whatever the cost of the necessary measures and regardless of the amount of money which could properly be made available for fuel poverty measures.
>
> "Fuel poverty in other households in England will, as far as reasonably practicable, also be tackled as progress is made on those groups, with a target that by 22 November 2016 no person in England should have to live in fuel poverty."
>
> "Vulnerable households" are households including older householders (those aged 60 or more), families with children and householders who are disabled or suffering from a long-term illness.

Ministers are in regular contact with energy suppliers and other stakeholders to discuss fuel poverty, among other issues. As announced in the 2008 Budget, the Government negotiated a voluntary agreement with each of the six main energy suppliers which means that the total level of assistance offered to vulnerable households by suppliers will increase from £100 million in 2008-09, to £125 million in 2009-10 and £150 million in 2010-11.

Ministers in the new Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) will continue discussions with colleagues in other Departments with links to fuel poverty issues including those in HM Treasury, Communities and Local Government, Department of Work and Pensions and the Department of Health.

Friends of the Earth and Help the Aged brought a claim for judicial review against the Secretary of State alleging a continuing failure to perform his duties outlined in the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000. The case was dismissed; the court has, however, granted the claimants the right to appeal.

The Government remain committed to tackling fuel poverty. While recent energy prices have made the challenge more difficult, we keep the position under constant examination and develop our approach as the situation changes.

JUSTICE

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226950]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is listed as follows.

Secretary of State for Justice.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) hosted one official Christmas function in 2007-08. This was an informal event at which approximately 50 officials attended and it was requested that each official should provide their own drinks. A minimal amount was spent on the provision of refreshments, the total cost of which did not exceed £50.

The Secretary of State for Justice did not attend any Christmas functions other than the one he hosted.

Ministry of Justice HQ and Associated Offices, HM Courts Service, The Tribunals Service, Office of the Public Guardian, National Offender Management Service including HM Prison Service and National Probation Service, Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Attendance at and hosting of hospitality events including Christmas parties by departmental staff may be recorded in local hospitality registers, in accordance with Ministry of Justice policy. This data is not collated centrally, and gathering information from local registers (including operational establishments) would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not fund Christmas parties although staff may personally contribute towards the cost of such an event.

At any time of year awards may be made through the reward and recognition scheme in line with departmental guidelines for team celebrations including modest parties.

Dangerous Driving: Satellite Navigation Systems

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been for the offences of *(a)* careless driving, *(b)* causing death by careless driving and *(c)* causing death by dangerous driving following inappropriate use of a satellite navigation device in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [228007]

Maria Eagle: In 2006 (latest available), there were 37,994 and 336 prosecutions for the offences of careless driving and causing death by dangerous driving respectively. 2007 data will be available later this year. The new offence of causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving was commenced on 18 August 2008. 2008 data will be available late in 2009.

The information on prosecutions for motoring offences held by my Department does not identify the circumstances surrounding the case or the precise behaviour of the driver that led to the offence being committed e.g. "inappropriate use of a satellite navigation device". The only case information captured for such prosecutions, apart from court results for individual offences, is the age and gender of the defendant.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228775]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to list the costs spent on overnight accommodation by the Department in the last 12 months as the expenditure is not separately identifiable with the Department's accounts and may be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All official travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228750]

Mr. Wills: 690 people aged 55 and over were recruited by the Ministry of Justice in 2007-08. This represents 7 per cent. of all new recruits in 2007-08. 262 people aged 60 and over were recruited by the Ministry of Justice in 2007-08. This represents 3 per cent. of all new recruits in 2007-08.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in his Department's financial database. [221964]

Maria Eagle: The payee supplier databases within Ministry of Justice hold records of approximately 144,000 payees.

It would be possible to extract the data requested only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229144]

Mr. Wills: At present the Ministry of Justice has 72 fast streamers working within MoJ including six who were internal candidates. 21 were recruited via the 2008 competition.

The pay range for MoJ Fast Streamers is £28,000 to £41,250.

Information is not kept centrally on the number of staff in the MoJ who were recruited through the Fast Stream and could be collated only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each year since it was established; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229090]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. The Department has a contract with Kelly Services and makes use of a framework contract established by the Home Office which gives access to a number of suppliers.

The following table gives details of the companies who have provided temporary staff, together with contract values, under these arrangements for the financial year 2007-08.

Company	*Expenditure (£)*
Kelly Services (UK) Ltd.	11,971,709
Brook Street plc	811,814
Hays Specialist Recruitment	263,482
Reed Employment	439,111
Employment Plus	10,339
NRG Group	79,334
Office Angels	81,370

The Department also utilises other agencies to meet any additional temporary staffing requirements. Information relating to these arrangements is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many drivers under the age of 25 years were prosecuted for driving over the permitted alcohol limit in each region of England and Wales in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* 2008 to date; [227140]

(2) how many drivers under the age of 25 years were prosecuted for driving under the influence of drugs in each region of England and Wales in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* 2008 to date; [227151]

(3) how many people were prosecuted for driving under the influence of drugs in each region of England and Wales in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* 2008 to date. [227154]

Maria Eagle: Data on prosecutions for the specific offence of driving over the prescribed alcohol limit are available only on a national (England and Wales) basis. They are given in the following table. Data on prosecutions for all offences of driving after consuming alcohol or drugs, broken down by region, are also given. It is not possible to identify separately how many of these prosecutions involved drugs and how many alcohol. 2007 data will be available later this year; 2008 data will be available late in 2009.

Table A: Proceedings at magistrates courts for driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], by age group, and by Government office region, 1997, 2000 and 2006

Number of offences

	1997		*2000*		*2006*	
Government office region	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*
North East	1,407	5,142	1,558	5,034	1,634	5,000
North West	3,717	15,218	3,738	13,353	4,188	13,969
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,364	9,873	2,330	8,748	2,717	9,060
East Midlands	2,191	8,361	1,870	6,974	2,228	7,635
West Midlands	2,815	12,496	2,267	9,818	2,873	11,059
East	2,558	9,698	2,306	8,175	2,716	10,191
London	3,691	19,457	2,963	14,359	3,103	15,138
South East	3,839	15,369	3,896	14,596	4,059	14,141
South West	2,472	9,397	2,190	8,272	2,606	8,538
Wales	2,003	7,176	1,999	6,831	2,107	6,692
England and Wales	27,057	112,187	25,117	96,160	28,231	101,423

[1] Data provided covers summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot be reliably distinguished separately).

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Proceedings at magistrates courts for offences of 'driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while having a breath, urine or blood alcohol concentration in excess of the prescribed limit'[1], by age group and Government office region, 1997, 2000 and 2006

Number of offences

	1997		*2000*		*2006*	
Government office region	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*
North East	1,115	4,044	1,199	3,863	1,416	4,108
North West	3,034	12,249	3,129	10,500	3,585	11,391
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,951	7,800	1,926	6,860	2,348	7,395
East Midlands	1,885	6,788	1,519	5,364	1,920	6,144
West Midlands	2,352	10,024	1,893	7,576	2,472	8,848
East	2,219	8,064	1,984	6,707	2,349	8,428
London	2,878	14,161	2,318	10,218	2,380	10,870
South East	3,316	12,870	3,380	12,168	3,517	11,758
South West	2,166	7,758	1,868	6,599	2,260	6,957

Table B: Proceedings at magistrates courts for offences of 'driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while having a breath, urine or blood alcohol concentration in excess of the prescribed limit'[1], by age group and Government office region, 1997, 2000 and 2006

	1997		2000		2006	
Government office region	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*
Wales	1,640	5,746	1,626	5,209	1,809	5,454
England and Wales	22,556	89,504	20,842	75,064	24,056	81,353

Number of offences

[1] Offences under s5(1)(a) Road Traffic Act 1988.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table C: Proceedings at magistrates' courts for offences of 'being in charge of a motor vehicle while having a breath, urine or blood alcohol concentration in excess of the prescribed limit'[1], by age group and Government office region, 1997, 2000 and 2006

	1997		2000		2006	
Government office region	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*	*Under age 25*	*Total all ages*
North East	41	158	70	219	33	96
North West	100	399	123	417	68	303
Yorkshire and the Humber	73	291	58	237	43	159
East Midlands	79	282	66	241	50	187
West Midlands	72	341	65	322	61	279
East	73	297	46	236	52	240
London	129	759	117	703	111	649
South East	152	572	126	472	71	326
South West	62	307	53	250	55	228
Wales	44	157	48	169	48	128
England and Wales	825	3,563	772	3,266	592	2,595

Number of offences

[1] Offences under s5(1)(b) Road Traffic Act 1988.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average sentence imposed by magistrates' courts for those found guilty of driving without car insurance was in the latest period for which information is available. [227783]

Maria Eagle: In 2006, the majority (94 per cent.) of offenders sentenced for 'using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks' received a fine.

The offence of driving without insurance is a summary offence. If the person committed a further offence while driving without insurance, such as causing injury to any person, they would be sentenced for the more serious crime.

Statistics for 2007 will be published at the end of November.

Number of persons sentenced[1] for the offence of using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, by result, magistrates courts, 2006, England and Wales

	Number of persons
	Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks
Total number sentenced	191,469
Result	
Absolute discharge	2,220
Conditional discharge	3,885
Community penalty	2,501
Fine	179,871
Other sentences	2,992

Number of persons sentenced[1] for the offence of using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, by result, magistrates courts, 2006, England and Wales

Number of persons

Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2. Only four people received immediate custody at the magistrates court, with so few people sentenced the average custodial sentence length should be treated with caution.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services

Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what circumstances the *(a)* existence and *(b)* content of a legal (i) practice direction and (ii) code of practice may not be placed in the public domain. [228118]

Mr. Straw: The Freedom of Information Act 2000 governs public access to official information. Requests for information are considered on a case by case basis. One or more of the exemptions identified in Part II of the Act might apply in some instances, including the provision to neither confirm nor deny whether a public authority holds the requested information.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of convicted prisoners with severe psychiatric disorders in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [229468]

Mr. Hanson: No annual assessment is made of the number of convicted prisoners with severe psychiatric disorders. However, we are aware that there are a number of people in custody in England and Wales who experience mental health problems. The 1997 Office for National Statistics' survey, for example, indicated that as many as 58 per cent. of male and 75 per cent. of female remand prisoners, and 39 per cent. of male and 62 per cent. of female sentenced prisoners met criteria for a diagnosis of anxiety and/or depression. Rates of psychotic illness were also higher than in the general population.

Accurate identification of people needing mental health treatment and care is important at all stages in the care and offender pathway. This is why all prisoners are screened at reception for risks of mental ill health and previous history of psychiatric treatment. The Offender Assessment System (OASys) helps to ensure that any person judged to be at risk and/or of needing mental health treatment and care can be identified and referred, where appropriate, to the mental health in-reach team.

By 2005-06 nearly £20 million was being invested recurrently in mental health in-reach. There are now 102 MH in-reach teams and all prisons now have access to them: a total of 360 extra staff altogether. There are also new systems to monitor and support those at risk of harming themselves.

Prisoners Release: Re-offenders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the alleged further offences committed by offenders on end of custody licence since 29 June 2007 were *(a)* murder, *(b)* attempted murder, *(c)* manslaughter and other homicide, *(d)* wounding and *(e)* other violence against the person. [229414]

Mr. Straw: As of 31 August 2008, 36,661 offenders have been placed on the end of custody licence scheme (ECL), of whom 1,244 have been recalled to custody, as notified to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) by 19 September 2008. During the same period, there have been 723 alleged further offences committed by 529 offenders during their period of ECL. 1 per cent. of offenders have allegedly re-offended during their period of ECL.

The following table gives a breakdown of those offenders notified to NOMS by 22 October 2008 as having allegedly committed a further offence of violence against the person during their period on ECL.

Alleged further offence	*Number of alleged further offences*
Murder	3
Attempted murder	0
Manslaughter and other homicide	0
Wounding	8
Other violence against the person	170
Total	181

Aggregate data on ECL release and recall, which has been published monthly since the scheme began, can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Data for the month of September, including recalls notified to NOMS by the end of 17 October 2008, will be published on 31 October 2008.

Religion: Discrimination

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plans to bring forward legislative proposals to remove the prohibition on Catholics or their spouses from succeeding to the throne. [230104]

Mr. Straw: To bring about changes to the law on succession would be a complex undertaking involving amendment or repeal of a number of items of related legislation, as well as requiring the consent of legislatures of member nations of the Commonwealth. We are prepared to consider the arguments in this complex area but have no immediate plans to legislate.

Repossession Orders: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many house repossession orders were laid before the courts in Hampshire in each of the last 12 months, broken down by county court. [229563]

Bridget Prentice: The tables show the numbers of mortgage and landlord possession claims issued and orders made in each county court in Hampshire over the 12 months to June 2008.

Court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2007 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. As county courts' jurisdictions are not coterminous with the borough boundaries, any single court's repossession actions are likely to relate to homes in a number of different boroughs.

Table 1: mortgage possession claims issued in the county courts of Hampshire in the year to June 2008, broken down by count and month

	Aldershot and Farnham		Basingstoke		Portsmouth		Southampton		Winchester	
	Claims issued	Orders made[1]	Claims issued	Orders made[1]	Claims issued	Orders made[1]	Claims issued	Orders made[1]	Claims issued	Orders made[1]
2007										
July	75	38	36	18	151	56	86	61	14	5
August	50	43	32	12	103	86	82	55	5	7
September	48	41	21	18	101	125	59	59	6	3
October	50	44	36	24	126	51	79	50	9	8
November	45	26	42	12	125	56	96	64	8	2
December	35	16	26	22	111	61	69	49	6	5
2008										
January	51	37	30	30	155	77	90	73	14	[illegible]
February	55	26	45	21	164	89	81	65	6	5
March	45	34	31	17	118	104	83	53	10	2
April	49	44	45	31	144	98	72	71	11	6
May	62	16	28	22	135	92	88	51	4	6
June	37	52	26	32	130	125	85	66	9	6

[1] Includes outright and suspended orders, the later being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually requires the defendant to pay the current mortgage instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

Notes:

1. Mortgage possession data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private.
2. The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
3. Although orders made will be less than claims issued overall, in a given month it is possible for the former figure to exceed the latter as a result of time lags in the process (typically around eight weeks from claim issue to order).

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Table 2: landlord possession claims issued in the county courts of Hampshire in the year to June 2008, broken down by count and month

	Aldershot and Farnham		Basingstoke		Portsmouth		Southampton		Winchester	
	Claims issued	Orders made[1]	Claims issued	Orders made[1]	Claims issued	Orders made[1]	Claims issued	Orders made[1]	Claims issued	Orders made[1]
2007										
July	32	60	56	24	128	69	98	58	15	6
August	56	30	46	30	174	66	98	64	19	12
October	41	34	46	25	126	87	84	65	3	4
September	41	30	42	50	122	54	134	79	16	8
November	45	26	32	29	136	78	87	83	8	10
December	28	17	31	21	103	72	92	52	10	7
2008										
January	89	52	39	34	149	75	97	85	6	7
February	49	47	47	32	119	72	87	106	15	7
March	61	48	17	18	119	84	89	77	16	11
April	46	54	36	29	87	78	118	96	8	13
May	39	36	47	20	90	57	82	80	5	3
June	38	47	47	37	93	85	103	78	13	7

[1] Includes outright and suspended orders, the later being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually requires the defendant to pay the current mortgage instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

Notes:

1. Landlord possession data include all types of landlord whether local authority, housing associations or private.
2. The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
3. Although orders made will be less than claims issued overall, in a given month it is possible for the former figure to exceed the latter as a result of time lags in the process (typically around eight weeks from claim issue to order).

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Shoplifting: Sentencing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to the results of the consultation on the sentencing guidelines for shoplifting; what recent representations he has received on the sentencing guidelines for shoplifting; and if he will make a statement. [228982]

Mr. Straw: The Government responded in June this year to the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council's consultation guideline on sentencing for the offences of theft and burglary (non-dwelling). I am advised that MOJ has received no representations on the consultation sentencing guideline for the offence of theft from a shop.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many proceedings for television licence evasion were brought in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many cases resulted in *(a)* a fine and *(b)* imprisonment in each year. [230862]

Mr. Hanson: The number of proceedings brought to court in each financial year since April 2002 for non-payment of a television licence is shown in the following table.

April to March each year	*Number of proceedings brought to court*
2002-03	4,893
2003-04	4,903
2004-05	5,471
2005-06	5,006
2006-07	6,532

Note:

Data sourced from TV Licensing authorities.

In calendar year 2007, of 5,901 people prosecuted for non-payment of a television licence, 4,464 received fines. None were imprisoned. The corresponding information for the years prior to 2007 is not available.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 July, how many of the fines levied in the period between 2002 and 2006 have been paid *(a)* in part and *(b)* in whole; and in respect of how many cases enforcement action for non-payment has been taken. [230853]

Maria Eagle: Information on paid, part paid and unpaid fines from television licence convictions is not collected centrally.

It is therefore not possible to establish the total of unpaid television licence fines or the number of television licence cases that have resulted in enforcement action.

The information collected by my Department identifies the number of television licence convictions ordered to be paid and the number and amounts of court fines issued for such offences within each region.

The overall payment rate for all financial penalties in the financial year to September 2008 is 87 per cent. The payment rate excluding the value of administrative cancellations for the same period is 75 per cent.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 July, what the *(a)* average fine imposed and *(b)* average period of imprisonment served was in each year between 2002 and 2006. [230858]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

Average fine amount for offences relating to television licence evasion[1], 2002-06

					£
Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	109.6	115.4	103.1	104.9	123.5
North West	106.9	102.2	109.2	115.3	122.3
Yorkshire and Humberside	90.6	104.2	101.5	112.5	121.4
East Midlands	141.0	137.0	134.8	131.9	139.9
West Midlands	131.3	136.2	141.0	152.4	158.8
East of England	116.6	113.5	117.5	109.2	116.3
London	100.7	106.7	110.4	130.3	133.8
South East	112.9	123.4	130.2	126.4	137.0
South West	120.3	115.6	111.4	117.4	126.1
Wales	97.6	108.6	101.1	105.4	117.6
Total England and Wales	110.5	114.7	115.5	121.8	129.4

[1] The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect on 1 April.2004.

Notes:

1. These data are on the principle offence basis.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
3. When answering previous parliamentary questions on this subject issues with data from certain police force areas were highlighted, however, this will only affect the numbers sentenced; average fine amounts will still be representative.

Source:

OMS Analytical services.

Average time served of those committed to custody for non-payment of fines for offences relating to Television Licence evasion, 2002-06

	Average number of days served
2002	4
2003	6
2004	4
2005	10
2006	4

Notes:

1. The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect on 1 April 2004.
2. These data are on the principle offence basis.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
4. Due to the small numbers involved these data are not presented by region.

Source:

OMS Analytical services.

ViSOR System

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the running costs of the ViSOR system have been to date. [228843]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The central running costs of ViSOR to date are given in the following table:

£

	Maintenance and development	*Depreciation*	*Total*
2003-04	5,207,740	1,041,548	6,249,288
2004-05	1,421,992	260,699	1,682,691
2005-06	1,732,154	1,418,267	3,150,421
2006-07	1,768,837	1,599,567	3,368,404
2007-08	1,821,902	1,554,059	3,375,961
Total	11,952,625	5,874,140	17,826,765

War Crimes: Arrest Warrants

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which overseas governments have made representations to the Government to change legislation on war crimes to prevent the issuing of arrest warrants without the approval of the Attorney General; [229570]

(2) when he plans to announce whether he plans to propose changes to legislation on war crimes to prevent the issuing of arrest warrants without Attorney General approval; and whether such changes would require primary legislation. [229571]

Mr. Straw: The Israeli Government have previously raised the Almog case. The content of those discussions is confidential.

The prosecution of certain offences, including war crimes and other offences under section 51 of the International Criminal Court Act 2001, requires the consent of either the Attorney-General or the Director of Public Prosecutions. Such consent is not required for the issue of an arrest warrant. The Government are continuing to consider whether and, if so, how to change the law in this area. Any proposals for legislation would be announced to Parliament in the normal way.

Wiring Up Youth Justice Programme

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to date has been of running the Wiring Up Youth Justice programme. [228865]

Mr. Hanson: Over the last two and a half years, the Wiring Up Youth Justice Programme has spent approximately £24.9 million.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Compensation: Fisheries

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much fishermen received to date under the Icelandic Fishermen's Compensation Scheme, broken down by port. [230136]

Mr. McFadden: Individual payments to each fisherman are confidential. The total payments made under the scheme by port are as follows:-

	£ million
Hull	18.3
Grimsby	9.8
Fleetwood	4.4
Aberdeen	1.6
Others	8.5

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many agencies were sponsored by his Department or its predecessors in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228512]

Mr. McFadden: The "Next Steps Report 1997" (Cm3889) provides information on all Executive agencies as at 31 December 1997. Copies are available from the Library of the House. The most up-to-date list of Executive agencies is published in the Cabinet Office publication "The List of Ministerial Responsibilities". The latest version, incorporating recent ministerial changes, will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228421]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has outsourced the provision and management of IT equipment and core IT services, through the ELGAR contract, to Fujitsu Services Ltd.

The ELGAR contract runs until the end of FY 2013-14. The contract is based on PFI and integral to the provision is the inclusion of regular technical refreshes of the IT estate, including hardware, software and networks.

Most IT spending in BERR is within the core and major services provided through the ELGAR contract, and these services have regular technical refreshes built into them. Depending on the nature of the IT service, refreshes occur every three or four years. Although this could be classified as upgrading the IT systems in BERR, it could also be considered as a necessary and planned means of keeping IT systems up to date, avoiding technical obsolescence.

It is not possible to extract definitive values for technical refreshes, because the nature of PFI contracts means that costs are recovered over the life of the service as regular unitary monthly service charges and not in specific years they were incurred.

Where IT spending occurs outside of the major ELGAR services, it would require the investigation and detailed analysis of many individual change requests to obtain a realistic figure. BERR consider that the considerable effort required to obtain this information is at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media for each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214699]

Mr. McFadden: Most of the Department's public information campaigns, that is to say, series of coordinated activities designed to inform the public, are managed centrally and procured through the Central Office of Information (COI). Spend on costs for public information campaigns through COI is set out in the following table. Costs are for BERR and its predecessor, the DTI (together with the former Small Business Service).

	Internet and website design and hosting[1]	*Print media design*[2]	*Media costs for broadcast media*[3]
2007-08			
National Minimum Wage	11,591.25	—	392,297
Firework safety	3,101.65	—	—
Print design overall	—	659	—
2006-07			
Energy White Paper	4,500	—	—
Print design overall	—	5,498	—
2005-06			
Consumer Direct	—	—	823,011
DTI Best Practice online activity	57,482	—	—
DTI Renewables	7,900	—	—
Print design overall	—	10,397	—
2004-05			
Consumer Direct	99,805	—	326,738
DTI Information and consultation online	10,300.68	—	—
Achieving Best Practice online	9,845	—	—
DTI Renewable Campaign website	187,049	—	—
Firework safety	32,025	—	152,527
Print design overall	—	17,842	—
2003-04			
Parental rights	—	—	20,544
SBS Business Link	—	—	389,438
2002-03			
UK Online for Business	—	—	1,783,070
SBS Business Link	—	—	4,031,048
Quality Mark	—	—	109,364

[1] Costs are indicative only.
[2] Costs provided are design costs incurred via the COI publications team. Some of the costs may not be related to campaigns. Costs may also cover items outside of conventional print media.
[3] TV, radio, cinema.

Figures for spend through COI before 2002 can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

So far as departmental central records can be interrogated, they indicate that departmental spending overall on design was as follows. Please note we are unable to disaggregate spending on public information campaigns from general spending on design. To provide a more accurate breakdown could be done only at disproportionate cost. All costs are approximate.

	Departmental spending overall on design (£)
2007-08	700,000
2006-07	344,000
2005-06	913,000
2004-05	1,509,000
2003-04	809,000

Information for non-COI spend on internet and website design and hosting for public information campaigns could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Broadcast advertising campaigns are usually only purchased through COI so the aforementioned figures from COI should be fairly representative of the Department's spending in this area.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226411]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform awards non-consolidated bonuses in two formats:

1. Special bonuses to recognise performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award.

2. Annual performance awards paid to highly successful performers as part of the annual pay award.

Based on the information available, the number of staff receiving these awards and total amount of bonuses for which this information can be provided is in the following table.

Financial year[1]	*Special bonus*		*Performance awards*	
	Number of staff receiving	*Total value (£)*	*Number of staff receiving*	*Total value (£)*
2008-09	[2]—	[2]—	1,033	[3]2,240,592
2007-08[4]	1,238	693,386	1,065	[5]2,265,502

[1] Financial year running from 1 April to 31 March.

[2] 2008-09 special bonus figures are not yet available.

[3] Includes staff who were transferred from BERR to DECC as part of the October 2008 Machinery of Government changes as these staff received a BERR pay award in 2008.

[4] In 2007-8 the total value of bonuses paid was approximately 1.5 per cent of the total Department's paybill.

[5] Includes staff who were transferred from DTI to DIUS as part of the June 2007 Machinery of Government Changes as these staff received a DTI/BERR pay award in 2007. Does not include those staff transferred into BERR from Cabinet Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government as part of the June 2007 Machinery of Government Changes as these staff received Cabinet Office and DCLG pay awards respectively in 2007.

Note:

The special bonuses and performance awards for non-SCS staff are paid on a non-consolidated, non-pensionable basis and do not increase the Department's paybill costs each year. For the SCS the Senior Salaries Review Body determines the level of expenditure to cover bonuses.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy to his Department in 2007-08. [228151]

Mr. McFadden: In 2007-08 the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's total expenditure (including UK Trade and Investment and the Department's agencies) on *(a)* entertainment and hospitality; *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy and marketing was as follows:

	£000
Entertainment and hospitality	1,196.6
Advertising and promotion	2,778.4
Public relations consultancy and marketing	156.4

The information is taken directly from the Department's financial system and the categories may cover a wider range of expenditure than requested in the question.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of these officials is. [229138]

Mr. McFadden: 269 civil servants working in the Department were originally recruited through the fast stream grade in the period for which this information is available (1997-2008). The average salary of these officials is £38,190.

Minimum Wage: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people living in each London borough received the national minimum wage at the latest date for which information is available. [229398]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated October 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people living in each London borough received the national minimum wage at the latest date for which information is available. I am replying in her absence. (229398)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from the Office for National Statistics. However, estimates for the number of all employee jobs paid below the national wage are, though the lowest geographical breakdown available is by Government Office Region.

The number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage for London region for all employees in 2007 was 23,000.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Post Office: Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Post Office has spent on *(a)* advertising and *(b)* sponsorship in each of the last five years. [229833]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Office: Motor Vehicles

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will consider proposals for the Post Office network to have its terminals linked to the Motor Vehicle Licence Online system. [228970]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: Responsibility for the issue and renewal of motor vehicle excise licences, including the channels available to do so, rests with DVLA. The arrangements in place for renewal of licences at post offices are a contractual matter between DVLA and Post Office Ltd.

Post Offices

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people used post offices for *(a)* foreign currency transactions and *(b)* submitting passport applications in the last 12 months. [229407]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices and sub-post offices were closed in the Chelmsford local authority area in the periods between *(a)* 1987 and 1996 and *(b)* 1997 and 2008. [229874]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Closure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many letters his Department has received *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* opposed to post office closures in the last 12 months. [229353]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold this information in the form requested. I understand that, nationally, Post Office Ltd. has received over 180,000 pieces of correspondence in response to the local area plan consultations on its Network Change proposals, half by e-mail (or whatever the proportion is).

Post Offices: Closures

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects Post Office Ltd. to make a decision on the future of Linslade Post Office in South West Bedfordshire constituency. [229580]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 October 2008]*: The Linslade Post Office branch was part of the Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Area Plan. I understand that the proposal to close the branch is subject to the further review process by Postwatch, and Post Office Ltd. expect to communicate the final decision in the near future.

Post Offices: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will instruct Post Office Ltd. to make its accounts available to North Yorkshire County Council to allow that council to assess the financial viability of individual post offices in North Yorkshire. [228985]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd's annual accounts are filed at Companies House and are therefore publicly available on request. In certain circumstances, for example where a local authority is interested in funding post office and other community service provision after the closure of a post office branch, Post Office Ltd may be prepared to disclose the costs to them of operating an individual post office on a confidential basis, providing the local authority signs an appropriate non-disclosure agreement and the outlet meets the relevant criteria.

Regional Development Agencies: Bank Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency has invested or on deposit in Icelandic banks. [228196]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: Regional Development Agencies do not hold accounts in Icelandic banks.

Small Firms' Loan Guarantee

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have been refused loans under the Small Firms' Loan Guarantee in each year since 2003. [225167]

Mr. McFadden: Decision-making on individual SFLG loans is delegated to participating lenders, who firstly must determine whether each business proposition is viable, before considering if SFLG is appropriate. Following implementation of changes recommended under the Graham Review in 2005, this Department no longer makes decisions on individual loans, and lenders are provided with a web-portal to determine formal approval of the guarantee. Therefore BERR does not hold any records on businesses that have not been granted loans under SFLG.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227049]

Mr. McFadden: Taxi spend incurred by officials in UK and Overseas travel is as follows:

	£
2006-07	349,075
2005-06	386,443
2004-05	342,928

Details for 2003-04 and for 2002-03 have not been retained and are therefore unavailable.

Letter from Gareth Jones, 27 October 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Taxi fares form part of overall expense claims and are not recorded separately. The amount claimed in cost. Companies House does however have an account with a local taxi company and the amounts paid were as follows:

Financial year	*Amount spent on taxi account (£)*
2006/7	17,887
2005/6	17,484
2004/5	16,924
2003/4	14,519
2002/3	13,964

Letter from Stephen Speed, 27 October 2008:

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform replied to a similar question in PQ 3644 of 2007 that the Service is unable to extract details of annual taxi expenses as they are not separately recorded. All claims made in August 2008 were sampled which showed costs of £1,510 for taxi fares in that month. We therefore reported that we do not expect the annual cost of taxi fares to be more than £20,000.

Wind Power

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* average gross income per annum and *(b)* subsidy from the public purse for a large 2.5 MW installed capacity wind turbine was in the latest period for which figures are available. [225109]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The information is as follows:

(a) The Department does not hold information on income for wind farms. Generators agree a contract with suppliers for the sale of electricity and renewable obligation certificates (ROCs), and this information is therefore likely to be commercially confidential.

(b) The renewables obligation are the Government's main mechanism for supporting renewable energy. It does not pay a subsidy to generators from the public purse, but instead places an obligation on suppliers to source a specific and annually increasing proportion of their sales from renewable sources. Suppliers meet their obligation either by presenting ROCs, which are issued to generators for every MWh of eligible renewable generation; by paying a buy-out price; or a combination of presenting ROCs and paying the buy-out price. Money from the buy-out fund is recycled pro-rata to suppliers presenting ROCs.

The price of a ROC is therefore set by the market. However, the nominal value of a ROC for a particular obligation period can be calculated by adding together the buy-out price and the recycled payment for that period. For 2007-08, this gives £34.30 + £18.59 = £52.89.

Wines

Alistair Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's practice is on supplying non-alcoholic wine as a choice at official receptions or functions. [229128]

Mr. McFadden: Non-alcoholic wine is available to order by function organisers within the Department from our contracted catering service provider, Baxter Storey.

World War II: Medals

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were awarded a Bevin Boys badge in each year since the inception of the award. [224687]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Applications for the Bevin Boys Veterans badge are processed on behalf of DECC by the MOD's Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA). They inform me that as at 6 October 2008 a total 4,541 badges have been issued. Of these, two applicants have included the word Jarrow in their address and have received a Bevin Boys Veterans badge.

Figures for the remaining areas—South Tyneside, the north-east and England—can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Death: Weather

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many excess deaths from cold weather there were in York in each year since 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [230259]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated October 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many excess deaths from cold weather there were in York in each year since 1996-97. I am replying in her absence. (230259)

Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). It is not possible to say whether these deaths were related to cold weather. The table attached provides the number of excess winter deaths in York unitary authority for the years 1996/97 to 2005/06 (the latest available).

Table 1: Excess winter deaths[1, 2] York unitary authority, 1996-97 to 2005-06

Winter	*Deaths (persons)*
1996-97	120
1997-98	140
1998-99	170
1999-2000	160
2000-01	180
2001-02	140
2002-03	120
2003-04	80
2004-05	100
2005-06	80

[1] The estimated number of excess winter deaths is the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 to reflect the fact that they are estimates.

[2] Data are based on deaths occurring in each month.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229082]

Kevin Brennan: Departmental records are not structured in a way that readily identifies which companies have been used for the provision of temporary staff to the Cabinet Office or the value of the contracts held. This information is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of foreign workers in employment who have lived in the UK for less than six months. [228442]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated October 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for an estimate of the number of foreign workers in employment who have lived in the UK for less than six months. I am replying in her absence. (228442)

Using the latest available Labour Force Survey (LFS) data, that is for April-June 2008, it is estimated that there were 55,000 foreign-born people aged 16 and over in employment who had been resident in the UK for less than six months and were living in private households.

It should be noted that the LFS is a survey of private households only and excludes most kinds of communal establishments, such as hotels and hostels, in which foreign-born workers may also be resident.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. In sampling error terms the above estimate is considered to be acceptable as the coefficient of variation (CV) lies between 10 and 20 per cent. The CV indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.

The figure is derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Lost Working Hours

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many hours of work in the United Kingdom were lost as a result of industrial action in each year since 1997. [229383]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated October 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many hours of work in the United Kingdom have been lost as a result of industrial action in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (229383)

The Office for National Statistics does not collect information on the number of hours of work lost as a result of industrial action, but does produce estimates of the number of working days lost.

The Office for National Statistics compiles monthly labour disputes statistics for the UK. They exclude disputes that do not result in a stoppage of work, and stoppages involving fewer than ten workers or lasting less than one day, unless the total number of working days lost in the dispute is 100 or more.

Table 1 attached provides estimates of working days lost in the United Kingdom between 1997 and 2007.

Working days lost (United Kingdom)

	Number
1997	235
1998	282
1999	242
2000	499
2001	525
2002	1,323
2003	499
2004	905
2005	157
2006	755
2007	1,041

Methadone: Death

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths attributed to methadone addiction were recorded in each of the last five years. [229662]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributed to methadone addiction have been recorded in each of the last five years. (229662)

The attached table provides the numbers of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning and methadone was mentioned on the death certificate either alone or together with other substances, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

The information collected at death registration does not specify whether the deceased was addicted to the substances mentioned as contributing to the death.

Table 1: Deaths attributed to drug poisoning[1] where methadone was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[2, 3, 4]

			Number
	Methadone mentioned only	*Methadone and other substances*	*Total mentions of methadone*
2003	74	127	201
2004	105	114	219
2005	98	122	220
2006	125	116	241
2007	167	158	325

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the table below) and where methadone was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[4] Where methadone was the only drug mentioned on the death certificate, and where methadone was mentioned with other substances.

ICD-10	*Description*
F11 to F16, F18 to F19	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40 to X44	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60 to X64	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10 to Y14	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent.

Minimum Wage: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people living in West Chelmsford constituency received no more than the national minimum wage at the latest date for which figures are available. [230516]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people living in West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency received no more than the national minimum wage at the latest date for which figures are available. (230516)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from ONS. However, estimates for the number of all employee jobs paid below the national wage are available by Government Office Region. This is the lowest geographical breakdown published by ONS.

The number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage for the East region for all employees in 2007 was 27,000.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Teenage Pregnancy: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of women under 18 years old living in *(a)* local authorities with a benefit claim rate of 10 per cent. or above and *(b)* in the 10 local authorities with the lowest employment rate were recorded as becoming pregnant in each year since 1997. [228726]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated October 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what proportion of women under 18 years old living in (a) local authorities with a benefit claim rate of 10 per cent or above and (b) in the 10 local authorities with the lowest employment rate were recorded as becoming pregnant in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (228726)

The information requested is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the rate of youth unemployment was in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* region in each of the last 10 years. [228728]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question what the rate of youth unemployment was in each (a) Constituency, (b) Local Authority and (c) Region in each of the last 10 years. (228728)

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

It is possible to access information on unemployment within age groups and by constituency, local authority and region from the Office for National Statistics Nomis® website: www.nomisweb.co.uk. This would involve creating a timeseries by combining estimates from the Annual Population Survey, Local Area Labour Force Survey and Labour Force Survey—Annual. However, much of the data that could be obtained regarding small area youth unemployment would be suppressed on the grounds of disclosure or quality.

Alternatively, counts of people aged 16-24 years claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) are also available at constituency, local authority and regional level from Nomis®.

Please note the JSA data available on the Nomis® Website differ from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Chad: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Sudan on its alleged support of armed groups in Chad; and if he will make a statement. [226079]

Gillian Merron: We have repeatedly called on the governments of Sudan and Chad to adhere to the Dakar Agreement of 13 March, which committed both governments to stop supporting each other's armed groups. The UK is an observer to the Dakar Contact Group, which monitors the implementation of this agreement.

Departmental Location

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what savings have been identified by his Department as a result of co-location of offices with the Department for International Development, broken down by country. [225599]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office management information system does not provide the detail required to identify cost savings as a result of our co-location with the Department for International Development. To provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Foreign Policy: Human Rights

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will amend his Department's strategic priorities and policy goals to include the advancement of human rights and freedom of speech. [226227]

Gillian Merron: Human rights are at the heart of all the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) departmental strategic objectives. The Foreign Affairs Committee recommended in April 2007 that FCO work in support of human rights be fully integrated into the Government's pursuit of all its strategic foreign policy priorities. We therefore ensured that human rights were central to our new strategic framework which has been in place since April 2008. We remain committed to integrating human rights more effectively into all our work, whether on countering terrorism, preventing and resolving conflict, promoting solutions to climate change, developing more effective international institutions or supporting British nationals abroad.

Human rights are central to achieving these strategic objectives. The FCO's latest Annual Human Rights Report shows how human rights will remain fully integrated in what we do, in London and through our network of posts around the world. A copy can be found at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/conflict/

India: Christianity

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next round of the ad hoc EU-India human rights dialogue will take place; and whether the recent violence in Orissa state, India, will be on the agenda for discussion. [226083]

Bill Rammell: We understand that the EU presidency wrote to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs in September expressing concern over the recent violence in Orissa and requesting that the issue be included on the agenda for the next EU-India Human Rights Dialogue, which is due to be held before the end of 2008.

India: Religious Freedom

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of temple desecration in Goa, India; what assessment he has made of the scale of the problem; and what assistance the Government is providing to the Indian Government to deal with the *(a)* causes and *(b)* consequences of the problem. [226263]

Bill Rammell: We were concerned to hear reports of temple desecration in Goa. The government of India has not requested assistance, but our high commission in New Delhi continues to monitor all issues relating to religious freedom in India. Our staff have regular meetings with the appropriate Indian authorities and highlight our concerns about incidents involving religious intolerance and persecution.

North Africa

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions he or officials from his Department have met representatives of the governments of *(a)* Sudan and *(b)* Libya since 1997. [225483]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and his officials have met representatives of the Governments of Sudan regularly since 1997. Diplomatic relations between Libya and the UK were resumed in 1999. Since then UK officials have met regularly in Tripoli and London with the representatives of the Libyan Government.

The Foreign Secretary met Sudanese Vice President Taha on 27 September in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly to discuss Darfur and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between north and south Sudan.

The Foreign Secretary met the Libyan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abdurrahman Shalgam, on 7 January.

In order to provide this information records would need to be collated from our various departments in London and posts overseas which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Pakistan: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to assist Pakistan with reducing the incidence of racially-motivated murders in that country. [224997]

Bill Rammell: Sectarian violence is a serious problem in Pakistan. The recent murders of members of the Ahmadiyya community and the 6 October suicide attack in Bhakkar which killed 22 people are tragic examples. We support the Government of Pakistan in tackling such violence through a comprehensive strategy involving better security provision, development and improved governance, and we have stressed the importance to the Government of Pakistan of guaranteeing rights and political participation of all Pakistani citizens.

Peace Negotiations: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in promoting the role of women in post-conflict negotiations and reconstruction. [228494]

Bill Rammell: Eight years after the adoption of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325, the resolution has had a positive impact on the inclusion of women in post-conflict negotiations and reconstruction. It has drawn international attention to the issue, it has resulted in greater inclusion of women in political dialogue in countries where the UN Peacebuilding Commission is operating, and mandates for UN peacekeeping missions now routinely request that the role of women is fully recognised. But we recognise that work must continue to ensure the systematic involvement of women at all stages of the conflict cycle. The adoption of UNSCR 1820 in June this year was a significant step forward in strengthening previous calls to address women's under-representation. In September, the UN Security Council held an Open Debate on 'mediation' in conflict resolution reiterating this call and in October, the UN Security Council Open Debate will focus on the need to enhance the role of women in peace processes.

The UK is at the forefront of international efforts to ensure the comprehensive and effective implementation of UNSCR 1325. We were among the first countries to draw up a national Action Plan setting out action for Government personnel and Departments to implement UNSCR 1325 and have encouraged other countries to do the same. Several European countries have since developed their own action plans. We regularly review the plan in partnership with civil society. We are raising awareness of gender in conflict by ensuring references in all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, and are promoting the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding through forums in a range of conflict affected countries.

The UN Peacebuilding Commission was established in 2005, to offer technical assistance to countries emerging from conflict and provide catalytic financial support for reconstruction efforts. The UK is a member of the Commission and has been instrumental in ensuring that UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 are mainstreamed through the Commission's engagement with countries on its agenda.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to enhance stability in Somalia in order to facilitate the delivery of aid; and if he will make a statement. [225964]

Gillian Merron: The United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement of 4 September 2008 requested the Secretary-General: elaborate on his contingency plans for an international force in Somalia; asked that he report back to the Council in 60 days on options for the force; and asked that he approach potential contributors of financial resources, personnel and equipment. I await his report with interest.

Despite the difficult security situation, the Department for International Development has pledged over £20 million in new commitments in 2008, including £12 million to World Food Programme who are distributing over 15,000 metric tonnes of food aid a month.

Somalia: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of progress towards the establishment of independent human rights institutions in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [226077]

Gillian Merron: The human rights situation in Somalia remains of serious concern. On-going violence and insecurity make it very difficult to gather and verify information, including on human rights. International human rights organisations are unable to operate in much of Somalia due to the security situation. We have no information that any new independent human rights institutions have been established in Somalia.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in securing the *(a)* financial resources, *(b)* personnel and *(c)* equipment for the international stabilisation force for Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [226072]

Gillian Merron: The UN Security Council Presidential Statement of 4 September 2008 requested the Secretary-General elaborate on his contingency plans for an international force in Somalia; asked that he report back to the Council in 60 days on options for the force; and asked that he approach potential contributors of financial resources, personnel and equipment. I await his report with interest.

Sri Lanka: Commonwealth

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed the situation in Sri Lanka with his Commonwealth counterparts; and if he will make a statement. [226085]

Bill Rammell: The situation in Sri Lanka is not currently on the Commonwealth's agenda. However, Ministers and officials have discussed the matter with individual Commonwealth countries and countries in the region.

Sri Lanka: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on the evacuation of foreign aid workers and UN staff from the northern regions of the country; and if he will make a statement. [225878]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for International Development raised the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka with President Rajapakse on 26 September in New York. They stressed the need for a political solution to the conflict as well as the need to secure humanitarian space and to provide humanitarian relief in the north.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the procurement and transport of donor-provided equipment for Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [226090]

Gillian Merron: Several donors, including the UK, are equipping troops and police due to deploy with the UN-African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). Procurement of UK-funded equipment for a Tanzanian infantry battalion is under way. We are in close contact with the UN and other donors to ensure nations contributing to UNAMID have the equipment they need, and we are pressing the UN to use airlift to move equipment rapidly into Darfur.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in the Arab League's mediation attempts between the Government of Sudan and the rebel forces; and when he last discussed the matter with his Arab League counterparts. [226076]

Gillian Merron: Qatar and the Arab League, with support from the African Union (AU), have proposed a Darfur peace conference, to which the Government of Sudan and Darfur rebel movements would be invited. On 14 September my noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, stated that we welcome all constructive initiatives towards peace in Darfur under the overall leadership of the UN-AU Chief Mediator, and hope that the Qatar Initiative can make a positive contribution to these efforts. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed this with the Secretary-General of the Arab League Amr Moussa in New York on 25 September.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in identifying countries with the capability to contribute to the police units for the joint UN-AU hybrid force in Darfur; which countries have pledged to contribute; and what each has pledged to contribute. [226075]

Gillian Merron: When fully deployed, the UN-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur will include 19 Formed Police Units (FPUs) of up to 140 police officers each, in addition to 3,772 individual police officers. An FPU from Bangladesh is already deployed in Darfur, and FPUs from Nepal, Indonesia (two), Nigeria (two), Senegal, Egypt, Togo and Bangladesh (two) are scheduled to deploy by the end of 2008. We understand the UN has received further pledges for additional FPUs including from Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, Gambia, Rwanda, and Cameroon.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the security situation in Darfur on the number of police patrols UNAMID is able to perform around refugee camps at night. [226089]

Gillian Merron: Security around refugee camps is improving as more Formed Police Units arrive in Darfur. Most police patrols are in daylight hours. They are being extended to midnight where sufficient manpower and four wheel drive vehicles are available. In some cases, such as around Kalma camp, 24 hour patrolling is now in operation. As additional personnel and vehicles become available, the number of night patrols will increase.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the establishment of an effective National Election Commission in Sudan. [225942]

Gillian Merron: Through our embassy in Khartoum, we have pressed the Sudanese Government to appoint a credible and effective National Election Commission (NEC) without delay, as an essential step for free and fair elections. The electoral law, passed on 9 July 2008, stipulated the appointment of the NEC within one month of passage of the law. The NEC is still not confirmed.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government are giving to the conduct of the national elections in Sudan that are scheduled for 2009; and if he will make a statement. [226087]

Gillian Merron: We have worked closely with the UN Mission in Sudan and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) over their technical assistance to the Sudanese government on, for example, the electoral law. We will continue to support the holding of free and fair elections in Sudan, including through contributing to a UNDP managed basket fund.

TREASURY

Bank of England Act 1998

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Bank of England Act 1998; what recent representations he has received about this Act; and what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequent on the provisions of the Act. [229506]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of England Act 1998 requires that the Chancellor specify what price stability is taken to consist of and the Government's economic policy objectives at least once in every period of 12 months beginning on the anniversary of the day the Act came into force. The Chancellor last wrote to the Governor of the Bank of England on this matter on 11 March 2008. Consequentially the Chancellor will write again to the Governor on this matter before 11 March 2009.

As part of the Banking Bill currently being considered in Parliament the Government are bringing forward measures to strengthen the Bank of England's role in financial stability. This includes providing the Bank with a new statutory objective relating to financial stability, enhancements to the governance arrangements within the Bank, and new policy responsibilities relating to the special resolution regime for banks, and oversight of inter-bank payment systems.

As part of the process of developing the legislation, the Government, with the Bank of England and FSA issued a consultation document, containing these proposals ("Financial Stability and Depositor Protection—further consultation")—and on which many respondents commented, and supported.

In line with the Bank of England Act 1998, the Bank of England's annual report and accounts were laid before Parliament in June 2008. The Treasury issues press notices regarding departing and new members of Court as required.

A full list of orders and statutory instruments that have been issued in relation to the 1998 Bank of England Act are available on the Bank of England website:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/about/legislation/orders.pdf

Bank Services

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that British business clients of the Landsbanki bank are able to continue to draw on their overdraft facility notwithstanding the Government's freezing of that bank's assets. [228818]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: HM Treasury has granted a licence to allow Landsbanki London branch to carry out commercial finance, asset based lending and capital markets and fixed income activities, as well as operating customers' business accounts.

HM Treasury has issued a series of notices providing guidance in relation to the operation of the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008. These notices confirm that the Freezing Order is specific to Landsbanki and does not freeze the funds of any other Icelandic banks. It does not affect Icelandic companies with no links to Landsbanki. HM Treasury notices can be found at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
fin_sanctions_landsbanki.htm.

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what protection is available for UK depositors in Kaupthing Isle of Man banks. [229059]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 October 2008]*: Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man..

Deposits with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man deposit compensation scheme.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in its negotiations with the Icelandic authorities.

Bank Services: Guernsey

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the UK Government are responsible for conducting negotiations with the Icelandic authorities on behalf of Guernsey in respect of deposits held by Landsbanki Guernsey; and if he will make a statement. [228251]

Ian Pearson: Arrangements for depositors in banks in Guernsey are a matter for the Government of Guernsey.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the UK Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in its negotiations with the Icelandic authorities.

Bank Services: Local Government

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to introduce a centralised system of credit approval for all loans made by English local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [228635]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

We have no plans to introduce any such system. It is for local authorities to assess the creditworthiness of any person to whom they may be making a loan.

Banks

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect the mark to market rules are having on bank liquidity; and what the procedures are for changing those rules. [225934]

Ian Pearson: The Government welcome the steps the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) has taken to revise accounting standards to address concerns that the application of fair value accounting may be exacerbating the reduction in some asset prices in the current extraordinary market conditions, while at the same time ensuring alignment of international and US standards. International Financial Reporting Standards are set by the IASB and adopted for use in the EU.

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the remutualisation of *(a)* Northern Rock and *(b)* Bradford and Bingley. [230107]

Ian Pearson: There has been no consideration of remutualising Northern Rock or Bradford and Bingley.

Banks: Compensation

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms he plans to put in place to ensure that the banking rescue package does not disadvantage banks which do not seek recourse to it. [226264]

Ian Pearson: It should be a commercial decision for each bank whether or not to take part in the package of support measures set out by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 8 and 13 October 2008. The investments being made by the Government are on commercial terms.

As the Chancellor made clear in his statements, in reviewing applications for the scheme, the authorities will give due regard to the extent to which institutions have substantial business in the UK and their role in the UK banking system and overall economy.

Banks: Debts

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports he has received on the extent of bad debt held by *(a)* UK banks and *(b)* banks with a base in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [226126]

Ian Pearson: It is a matter for individual institutions to make appropriate disclosures about their balance sheets. The Government do not comment on individual institutions.

Construction Industry Scheme

Mr. Pope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have lost construction industry scheme status in relation to their tax affairs since 6 April 2007. [229253]

Angela Eagle: Under the construction industry scheme, businesses have to continue to meet certain statutory criteria to maintain registration for gross payment. HM Revenue and Customs have cancelled around 10,000 gross payment registrations since 6 April 2007 and registered those businesses for payment under deduction.

Cost of Living

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of the turbulence in the financial markets on the cost of living; and if he will make a statement. [229504]

Ian Pearson: These are difficult times in the global economy. The Government are determined to help families and businesses affected by the global economic difficulties, doing what we can to support those who need it most. The Government will update their forecasts for the UK and world economies, including prices, in the forthcoming pre-Budget report as normal, based on all relevant factors.

Credit Cards: Debts

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of credit card debt in *(a)* November 2006 and *(b)* the most recent month for which figures are available. [229839]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the level of credit card debt in (a) November 2006 and (b) the last month for which figures are available. (229839)

At end-November 2006, outstanding consumer credit on credit cards was estimated at £54893 million. At end-August 2008 the estimate was £54574 million. The figures are not seasonally adjusted and come from Table S3.2B of the ONS publication Financial Statistics No 558 October 2008.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210997]

Yvette Cooper: The chart of accounts for 2008-09 reflects the Department's structure for the year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future years. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts and shown in bold) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use. A copy of the chart has been placed in the Library.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229155]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows.

	IT project	*Recent estimate of the cost (£)*	*Recent estimate of the completion date*
OGCbs	Introduction of new video conferencing equipment at our main office locations in Liverpool and Norwich plus the installation of an additional private network connection between the two sites for video traffic.	100,000	End of December 2008
OGCbs	Transition to a new web hosting platform to improve performance and resilience.	100,000	End of December 2008
OGCbs	Implementation of the Zanzibar electronic marketplace for internal purchasing of goods and services	132,000	February 2009
OGCbs	Upgrade to Supplier and Contracts database and creation of the Management Information Collection Application. This will allow us to better manage suppliers and report on customer spending through our arrangements.	55,000	End of February 2009
HMT	OGC Laptop Refresh Project—Planned replacement of obsolete equipment with new devices with remote working capabilities.	461,000	November 2008
HMT	Group Networks—Implementation of new Restricted network infrastructure for shared services.	580,000	31 October 2008
HMT	Common Infrastructure Management Tools—implementation of single toolset and process for systems management across multiple networks Confidential and Restricted including deployment of software/upgrades and security patches.	450,000	28 November 2008
HMT	Firewall Replacement Project—Planned replacement of obsolete firewalls to ensure security and compliance of networks and services.	254,000	31 October 2008

	IT project	*Recent estimate of the cost (£)*	*Recent estimate of the completion date*
HMT	Switch Replacement Project—Planned replacement of obsolete network infrastructure to ensure delivery, security and performance of networks and services.	675,000	10 November 2008
HMT	OGC Blackberry—implementation of Blackberry servers and devices to support the business requirements.	52,000	21 November 2008
DMO	Portfolio Management System	105,000	March 2009

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228783]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's accounting system does not separately identify spending on overnight accommodation within total spending on subsistence.

All travel and subsistence is conduced in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229525]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is detailed in the following table:

Department/Agency	*Classic*		*Classic Plus*		*Premium*		*Nuvos*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
HM Treasury	520	44	60	5	428	36	149	13
DMO	28	36	3	4	29	38	13	17
OGC	111	48	5	2	71	30	44	19
OGC Buying Solutions	147	54	10	4	91	34	12	5

Some civil servants have opted out of the PCSPS or have chosen the Partnership option. The aforementioned data is correct as of the September 2008 payroll.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229080]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury has used the following companies to provide temporary staff since 2004-05. The table shows the total spend each year with each company.

£

Supplier	*Financial year*			
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Brook Street	105,144	231,994	333,340	105,435
Huntress	43,915	57,241	49,910	27,071
Kelly Services	—	—	—	123,254
Office Angels	18,521	19,271	38,182	—
OSR	—	—	—	9,352
Reed	—	3,131	[illegible]	53,073
Total	167,580	311,637	421,432	318,185

As a result of the introduction of a new accounting system, details of companies used prior to 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

OGC have used the following companies to provide temporary staff since 2006-07. The table shows the total spend each year with each company.

£

Supplier	*Financial year*	
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Reed Employment	94,273	41,348
Reed Personnel	51,457	46,362
Brook Street	38,986	1,111
Carlisle Staffing	132,553	27,004
Addeco	79,503	—
Manpower	33,784	—
Select Appointments PLC	36,985	—
Kelly Services	—	96,593

As a result of the introduction of a new accounting system, details of companies used prior to 2006-07 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EC Grants and Loans

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of European Union funding in each region was administered by *(a)* Government departments, *(b)* regional development agencies, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* other bodies in the latest period for which information is available. [229348]

Ian Pearson: Details of total United Kingdom public sector receipts from the EC Budget, i.e. those receipts which pass through Government Departments are given in Table 3.3, page 25, of the 2008 European Community

Finances White Paper (Cm 7462) published on 10 September 2008. An estimate of the expected level of receipts paid direct to the private sector in 2008 is given in paragraph 3.10, page 22 of the White Paper.

Geographical Information Systems: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Valuation Office Agency has made of the cost of implementing its plans for a geographical information system. [229673]

Mr. Timms: The current estimated cost of developing the Valuation Office Agency's geographical information system is £3.4 million.

Government Departments: Annual Reports

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the guidance provided by HM Treasury to departments on what they should disclose in their 2008 autumn performance reports. [229456]

Angela Eagle: A copy of the guidance to Departments on their 2008 autumn performance reports (APRs) is being deposited in the Library.

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his practice to place in the Library copies of the guidance provided by HM Treasury to Departments on what they should disclose in departmental annual reports and autumn performance reports, on each occasion that such guidance is issued. [229457]

Angela Eagle: A copy of the guidance issued on annual departmental reports and autumn performance reports will now be placed in the Library each time they are issued.

Income Tax: Self-assessment

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs has taken to ensure the efficient administration of online tax returns for the 2007-08 tax year. [229583]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* During this year, HMRC has made substantial investment in its online filing service for Self-Assessment (SA). HMRC's free software for SA, used by unrepresented individuals, has been redesigned to make it much easier for customers to complete. HMRC has also updated its underpinning IT infrastructure, providing greater capacity, resilience and enhanced management information. This information helps HMRC ensure that peak demands are successfully managed.

Inflation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take in response to recent trends in the rate of inflation; what representations he has received on this issue since July 2008; what steps he took in response to those representations; and if he will make a statement. [229515]

Ian Pearson: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England has operational responsibility for the conduct of monetary policy the Chancellor and other Treasury Ministers receive a wide number of representations on economic and statistical issues. The Government will update their forecasts for the UK and world economies in the forthcoming pre-Budget report as normal, based on all relevant factors.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Bank of England and *(c)* the Financial Services Authority has made of the number of local authorities which have deposits in Icelandic-owned banks. [226582]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The FSA holds information on the deposits held in banks as part of its normal regulatory duties. This information is commercially confidential.

The Local Government Association has undertaken a survey of local authorities data, which can be found at:

http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=1124305

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the guarantee given to UK savers in Icelandic-owned banks will apply to investments made by local authorities. [226583]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 35WS.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's letter of 25 July 2008 on his constituents Miss M. Murray and Mr. Stuart Fleming. [228838]

Mr. Timms: My predecessor replied on 27 August. A copy of her letter is being forwarded to the hon. Member.

Monetary Policy Committee

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what process is followed for appointment of members of the Monetary Policy Committee. [229516]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the 1998 Bank of England Act, Section 13 and Schedule 3, paragraphs 1-9.

Further to this, the Chancellor and the Prime Minister have made several additional announcements on the appointments process for members of the Monetary Policy Committee.

The Government made two announcements regarding the process of making external appointments to the MPC in summer 2007. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Pre-Budget Report 2007 (cm7227), Chapter 2 paragraphs 2.8 and 2.9, for a description of these changes:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_chapter2_197.pdf

On 19 June 2008, the Chancellor wrote to the Chair of the Treasury Select committee detailing a further set of changes to appointments process. These are described in the Treasury press release on this matter:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_65_08.htm

Northern Rock: Repossession Orders

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the policy of Northern Rock is on repossessing homes; and if he will make a statement. [229450]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Carmarthen and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 728W.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1739W, on public expenditure, what, in near cash terms, the amount of negative departmental expenditure limit income retained by departments was, broken down on the same basis as tables 1.7 and 1.10 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2008 (HC 489, 2007-08). [210951]

Yvette Cooper: The following tables show the negative departmental expenditure limit included in central Government departmental budgets published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008 (HC 489). The main components are sales of goods and services (including by NHS and Foundation Trusts), grants from the EC and transfers from other Departments, for example in respect of co-funded non-departmental public bodies. The Consolidated Budgeting Guidance details all types of income that can be treated as a benefit to departmental budgets and is available at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4/1/consolidated_budguid010208.pdf

Near-cash in resource DEL by departmental group[1]

£ million

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Children, Schools and Families	-58	-129	-91	-87	-77	-57
Health	-7,764	-8,565	-9,646	-11,153	-10,206	-10,423
Of which						
NHS England	-7,661	-8,441	-9,526	-11,005	-9,993	-10,132
Transport	-575	-583	-768	-857	-1,008	-1,076
Innovation, Universities and Skills	-4,438	-5,054	-5,605	-6,446	-6,977	-7,195
CLG Communities	-167	-127	-193	-198	-261	-246
CLG Local Government	-12	-4	-5	-2	-10	0
Justice	-700	-912	-1,349	-1,153	-1,393	-1,145
Home Office	-234	-365	-777	-786	-916	-1,150
Law Officers' Departments	-100	-112	-100	-107	-130	-158
Defence	-1,434	-1,383	-1,227	-1,440	-1,495	-1,347
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	-172	-204	-245	-327	-342	-414
International Development	-19	-8	-12	-8	-11	-10
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	-1,133	-1,275	-1,299	-2,550	-2,445	-2,287
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	-2,807	-2,815	-2,737	-3,046	-2,756	-2,585
Culture, Media and Sport	-313	-330	-374	-353	-427	-392
Work and Pensions	-564	-689	-779	-903	-893	-857
Scotland	-1,182	-1,060	-978	-820	-874	-936
Wales	-431	-448	-285	-504	-491	-417
Northern Ireland Executive	-910	-974	-1,184	-1,380	-1,271	-1,400
Northern Ireland Office	-95	-91	-98	-104	-104	-107
Chancellor's Departments	-660	-682	-700	-768	-703	-747
Cabinet Office	-73	-96	-126	-183	-207	-214
Independent Bodies	-62	-67	-78	-73	-84	-83

Capital DEL by departmental group[1]

£ million

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Children, Schools and Families	0	-2	-1	0	-1	79
Health	-1,261	-551	-533	-1,208	-1,167	-515
Of which						
NHS England	-1,259	-551	-533	-1,208	-1,167	-515
Transport	-76	-138	-89	-79	-53	-88
Innovation, Universities and Skills	-23	-62	-49	-146	-38	-113
CLG Communities	-199	-353	-379	-625	-629	-751

Capital DEL by departmental group[1]

£ million

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
CLG Local Government	—	—	0	—	—	-31
Justice	-20	-55	-22	-9	-21	-12
Home Office	3	-12	0	-9	0	-14
Law Officers' Departments	—	—	—	-34	0	0
Defence	-350	-252	-350	-705	-480	-539
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	-17	-27	-12	-18	-58	-15
International Development	-39	-41	-32	-32	-35	-38
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	-1,687	-1,332	-1,101	-1,195	-1,369	-1,253
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	-46	-17	-13	-26	-34	-12
Culture, Media and Sport	-100	-142	-72	-114	-114	-152
Work and Pensions	-19	-168	-40	-57	-22	-17
Scotland	-79	-202	-247	-196	-216	-206
Wales	-27	-129	-130	-119	-131	-193
Northern Ireland Executive	-235	-361	-400	-361	-407	-322
Northern Ireland Office	0	0	-1	-4	-2	-79
Chancellor's Departments	-103	-2	-97	-33	-11	-1
Cabinet Office	-1	-71	-1	-1	-12	-17
Independent Bodies	0	0	0	0	-8	0

[1] '—' indicate no income whereas zeros indicate income of less than £0.5 million.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (Cm 7227, 2006/07), what the expected level, in near cash terms, of *(a)* negative resource Departmental Expenditure Level (DEL) and *(b)* negative capital DEL income to be retained by Departments is, broken down on the same basis as tables 1.7 and 1.10 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2008, (HC 489, 2007-08). [210998]

Yvette Cooper: The following tables show the negative DEL included in central Government departmental budgets published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008 (HC 489). This shows the expected income as at the 2007 comprehensive spending review, updated with classification and policy changes. The main components are sales of goods and services (including by NHS and foundation trusts), grants from the EC and transfers from other Departments, for example, in respect of co-funded non-departmental public bodies. The Consolidated Budgeting Guidance details all types of income that can be treated as a benefit to departmental budgets and is available at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4/1/consolidated_budguid010208.pdf

Near-cash in resource DEL by departmental group

£ million[1]

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Children, Schools and Families	-24	-24	-24
Health	-10,795	-10,429	-11,040
Of which			
NHS England	-10,684	-10,301	-10,908
Transport	-984	-1,157	-1,385
Innovation, Universities and Skills	-7,178	-7,449	-7,775
CLG Communities	-172	-333	-324
CLG Local Government	0	0	0
Justice	-1,222	-1,209	-1,235
Home Office	-1,125	-1,299	-1,354
Law Officers' Departments	-154	-154	-154
Defence	-1,283	-1,316	-1,352
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	-460	-382	-382
International Development	-10	-10	-10
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	-2,741	-2,846	-2,726
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	-2,406	-2,313	-2,268
Culture, Media and Sport	-130	-130	-160
Work and Pensions	-850	-605	-597
Scotland	-1,044	-966	-970
Wales	-439	-447	-449
Northern Ireland Executive	-1,252	-1,156	-1,1[illegible]
Northern Ireland Office	-103	-104	-104

Near-cash in resource DEL by departmental group

			£ million[1]
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Chancellor's Departments	-688	-676	-670
Cabinet Office	-216	-158	-161

Capital DEL by departmental group

			£ million[1]
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Health	-286	-146	-30
Of which:			
NHS England	-286	-146	-30
Transport	-58	-49	-52
Innovation, Universities and Skills	-211	-211	-211
CLG Communities	-570	-641	-632
Justice	-27	0	0
Defence	-1		
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	-215	-531	-186
International Development	-18	-18	-18
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	-20	-20	-20
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	-1,173	-1,140	-1,164
Culture, Media and Sport	-41	-13	-8
Work and Pensions	-444	-1,152	-932
Scotland	-25	-25	-25
Wales	-176	-173	-97
Northern Ireland Executive	-160	-155	-155
Chancellor's Departments	-655	-438	-730
Cabinet Office	-4	-4	-4

[1] '—' indicate no income whereas zeros indicate income of less than £0.5 million

Public Sector: Pay

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of differences in treatment of civil servants and other public sector staff in *(a)* pay rises and *(b)* the funding of pay progression, with particular reference to the use of recyclable elements to fund such progression. [221509]

Yvette Cooper: Civil service pay decisions are delegated to individual Departments. These pay decisions must fall within the parameters set out in the Treasury's annual Pay Remit Guidance, which includes specific guidance on the recycling of savings back in to the pay bill.

Parameters for the coming year will be set out in the 2009-10 guidance. The objectives of the Remit Process are:

To ensure that increases to pay are affordable within the overall fiscal environment, offer value for money and are consistent with the Bank of England achieving its inflation target of 2 per cent.;

To ensure that levels of pay are set at the amount necessary to recruit and retain staff;

To ensure that pay in the civil service reflects, and is responsive to, the wider public sector and private sector labour market; and

To ensure that pay is fair across the whole of the civil service and not discriminatory.

The precise method of controlling pay differs across the public sector but the Government's public sector pay policy, which includes the civil service, is that pay should:

Reflect the individual labour market position of work forces, particularly the need to recruit and retain staff;

Be consistent with the Bank of England achieving its CPI inflation target of 2 per cent.;

Be affordable for Departments; and

Represent value for money for taxpayers.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to take possession of houses and flats on which mortgage-holders with Northern Rock and Bradford and Bingley have defaulted and allocate the properties to those on the waiting list for social housing. [228232]

Ian Pearson: Northern Rock and Bradford and Bingley are run at arm's length from the Government, on commercial principles. The Government have made increasing the provision of social housing a priority in successive Spending Reviews. In England, the Government are investing £8 billion over the next three years in affordable housing—a 50 per cent. increase over the last three years.

Tax Credit: Complaints

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints from customers in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency on tax credits his Department received in each year since tax credits were introduced. [229441]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available at constituency level.

Tax Yields: Gaming Machines

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many category B1 gaming machines there are in casinos in each region; and how much value-added tax revenue accrued from customer spending on B1 gaming machines in the most recent period for which information is available. [229496]

Angela Eagle: In 2007-08 there were 2,634 category B1 gaming machines in casinos. The regional breakdown and the amount of VAT from customer spending on gaming machines are not available.

Taxation: Aviation

Graham Stringer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what economic modelling he has undertaken in assessing the likely effect of the introduction of the proposed new aviation duty; and if he will make a statement; [229478]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of flights using UK airports of the introduction of the proposed new aviation duty. [229477]

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what modelling has been undertaken in assessing the likely impact on the economic viability of the aviation industry of the introduction of the proposed new aviation duty; [229598]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the number of flights using UK airports of the introduction of the proposed new aviation duty. [229599]

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what modelling has been undertaken to assess the likely effect on the financial viability of the aviation industry of the introduction of the proposed new aviation duty; [229256]

(2) what estimate has been made of the likely effect on the number of flights using UK airports of the introduction of the proposed aviation duty. [229255]

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the number of flights using UK airports of the introduction of the proposed aviation duty; [230759]

(2) what modelling of likely effects on the economic viability of the aviation industry of the introduction of the proposed aviation duty he has undertaken. [230760]

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what modelling has been undertaken in assessing the likely impact on the economic viability of the aviation industry following the introduction of aviation duty; [231205]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of flights using UK airports of the introduction of the proposed aviation duty. [231206]

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what modelling his Department has undertaken to assess the likely effect of the proposed introduction of aviation duty on the economic viability of the aviation industry; [230122]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effect of the introduction of the proposed aviation duty on the number of flights using UK airports. [230124]

Angela Eagle: A formal consultation on aviation duty was published on 31 January 2008 and closed on 24 April 2008. 170 consultation responses were received and these have been considered in developing the policy.

The Government are modelling overall impacts of the tax on the whole economy, including airports and the aviation industry. The details of the duty have not yet been set. The Chancellor plans to make an announcement in the autumn.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the loss to the Exchequer caused by late tax returns in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [227540]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income was received from *(a)* penalty charges and *(b)* interest charged to people who did not meet tax return deadlines in each of the last five years.[1] [227556]

Mr. Timms: The following information relates to self-assessment tax returns.

(a) The following penalty charges were charged for the late submission of self-assessment tax returns. The figures relate to each of the tax assessment years rather than the year in which income was received.

Tax year	*£ million*
2003-04	73.7
2004-05	126.1
2005-06	113.2
2006-07	149.4
2007-08	[1]—

[1] Return due:
Paper: 31 October 2008
Online: 31 January 2009.

Information is only available for four tax years. Information prior to 2003-04, can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(b) Interest is not charged for late submission of a self-assessment tax return; interest is charged on the late payment of any income tax due. While interest charges may arise on a tax liability following late submission of a tax return, this information is not available separately from interest charged generally on income tax liabilities that are paid late.

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on his policy of advertising deadlines for tax returns to be made. [227557]

Mr. Timms: There have been no recent representations.

1.*[Official Report, 20 November 2008, Vol. 483, c. 4MC.]*

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on advertising the need for people to make timely tax returns in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [227558]

Mr. Timms: Media costs for the Self Assessment campaign for the last five years are as follows:

	£
2003-04	5,527,234.00
2004-05	5,462,351.00
2005-06	5,994,946.00
2006-07	3,009,975.00
2007-08	1,928,725.00

Treating Customers Fairly Scheme

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average cost of investigating an independent financial adviser under the Treating Customers Fairly scheme was in the last 12 months; [229349]

(2) how many complaints the Financial Services Authority have received about independent financial advisers under the Treating Customers Fairly scheme in the last 12 months; how many were investigated; and how many investigations resulted in penalties or other sanctions being imposed on the adviser concerned. [229350]

Ian Pearson: The matters raised in these questions are the responsibility of the FSA, whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the Chief Executive of the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issues he raises.

VAT: Channel Islands

Mr. Olner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his officials are participating in the European Commission's investigation into the legality of the continued availability of low value consignment relief from value added tax in respect of imports of food supplements, herbal remedies and other items from the Channel Islands; and if he will make a statement. [229755]

Mr. Timms: A reply was sent to the European Commission in April 2008 by HMRC. This was in response to the Commission's request for comment about the UK's application of the low value consignment relief.

To date no further correspondence has been received.

VAT: Local Government

Mark Fisher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which items of expenditure in a local election or local referendum are liable for value added tax. [229611]

Mr. Timms: The normal VAT liability rules will apply to expenditure in connection with local elections or local referenda. They will be subject to VAT at the standard rate unless covered by any of the reduced rate, zero rate or exemption provisions.

Welfare Tax Credits

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1593-94W, on social security benefits, how many people applied for either working tax credit or child tax credit in each month since January 2006. [229705]

Mr. Timms: The number of new claims for working tax credit or child tax credit received from households in each month since January 2006 is given in the following table. It is not possible to say how many people are included in each claim except at disproportionate cost.

	New claims received by household
2006	
January	89,397
February	101,742
March	113,842
April	66,273
May	108,440
June	110,773
July	84,857
August	119,459
September	117,658
October	115,724
November	115,482
December	78,388
2007	
January	97,324
February	101,048
March	116,460
April	81,984
May	90,815
June	110,234
July	100,482
August	111,926
September	91,973
October	116,177
November	115,522
December	72,092
2008	
January	88,503
February	103,560
March	102,006
April	94,724
May	100,102
June	107,390
July	121,180
August	104,541
September	120,090

Welfare Tax Credits: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints from customers in West Chelmsford constituency he received on tax credits in each year for which figures are available. [230517]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available at constituency level.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question 221509, tabled on 17 July 2008 for named day answer on 22 July 2008, on Civil Service pay. [229269]

Yvette Cooper: I have done so.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House what IT projects her Office is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the completion date of each is. [229167]

Chris Bryant: The Leader of the House of Commons' Office is currently considering the feasibility of one IT project, the "Electronic Parliamentary Community" (ePC), the aim of which is to enable the processing of parliamentary questions and answers electronically between Parliament and Government Departments.

Funding for the project is subject to approval by the Cabinet Office. A completion date will be established if funding is approved.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many press and communications officers her Office employs; [230764]

(2) how much her Office spent on salaries for press and communications officers in each of the last three years. [230765]

Chris Bryant: None. Press office services are provided by the Cabinet Office Communication Group.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how many civil servants in her Office were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229186]

Chris Bryant: None.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how many civil servants in her Office were seconded to work for *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229104]

Chris Bryant: None.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited to work in her Office in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228749]

Chris Bryant: None.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 28 October 2008

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Staff

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff work on the Downing Street switchboard, broken down by Civil Service grade. [229052]

The Prime Minister: As at 1 April 2008 12 staff worked on the Downing Street switchboard.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister what arrangements his Office has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222183]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary Cabinet Office, (Mr. Watson) today.

Wouter Basson

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister if he will direct the relevant authorities to investigate the claim made by Wouter Basson during his trial in South Africa in July 2000 that an illicit weapons cache, including chemical weapons, seized by HM Customs and Excise (HMCE) was subsequently stolen from an HMCE warehouse following information he provided; and if he will make a statement. [227353]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

HMRC officials have reviewed their historical records and have found no evidence to support the claim that a weapons cache, including chemical weapons, was stolen from a HMCE/HMRC warehouse.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Borders

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether funding is provided by his Department to counties in the Republic of Ireland which border Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [230997]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) can confirm that it provides no funding to any counties in the Republic of Ireland.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227471]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has not held any citizens' juries since 1 July 2007.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229077]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies, executive non-departmental public bodies and public inquiries, have made the following payments to recruitment agencies in the last five financial years:

£

Recruitment Agency	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Brook Street (UK) Ltd.	0.00	0.00	2,403.75	913.42	35,712.89
Diamond Recruitment	9,699.84	14,811.99	10,555.42	10,332.81	16,092.65
Excel Recruitment Ltd.	24,915.03	14,473.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grafton Recruitment	32,431.98	31,739.91	76,451.18	112,394.12	100,458.31
Hays Accounting Personnel	31,518.36	29,992.96	31,992.13	43,846.28	27,262.03
Select Recruitment	1,318.15	23,782.99	9,388.80	0.00	0.00
Tim Lewis Recruitment Ltd.	0.00	6,553.00	5,512.30	1,522.13	0.00
Total	99,883.36	121,354.01	136,303.58	169,008.76	179,525.88

The figures in this table include both the costs for appointing staff to the Department and the salaries paid to temporary staff members.

Young Offenders

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of *(a)* people in young offender centres in and *(b)* the population of Northern Ireland are (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) of each religion, (iv) from an ethnic minority, (v) from each socio-economic group and (vi) resident of each district council area; and if he will make a statement. [228235]

Paul Goggins: At 21 October, there were 53 female prisoners and 207 male young offenders and juveniles held at Hydebank Wood young offenders centre and prison. The other information relating to young offenders/

prisoners is detailed in the following tables. As Prison Service records do not identify residency by district council area, the information has been provided on a county basis.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service has an obligation to ensure that all of its policies and procedures are fair to all who come into contact with it and is fully committed to its statutory obligations under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and all other relevant equality and anti-discrimination legislation and duties.

Responsibility for the provision of figures for the general population of Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved administration.

Religion

	Male		*Female*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Atheist	2	0.97	—	—
Christian	2	0.97	6	11.32
Church of Ireland	16	7.73	10	18.87
Evangelical	2	0.97	—	—
Free Presbyterian	9	4.35	—	—
Methodist	6	2.90	2	3.77
Muslim	2	0.97	1	1.89
Presbyterian	45	21.73	5	9.43
Roman Catholic	107	51.68	16	30.19
Baptist	1	0.48	—	—
None	12	5.80	7	13.21
Other	3	1.45	6	11.32

Ethnicity

	Male		*Female*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Black African	2	0.97	2	3.77
Chinese/ Oriental	2	0.97	12	22.65
Irish Traveller	4	1.93	—	—
White	198	95.65	36	67.92
Afro Caribbean	—	—	3	5.66
Arab	1	0.48	—	—

Socio-Economic group

	Male		*Female*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Unemployed	166	80.19	41	77.36
Routine occupations	41	19.81	12	22.64

Residency

	Male		*Female*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
County Antrim	106	51.21	16	30.20
County Armagh	11	5.31	2	3.77
County Down	35	16.91	8	15.10
County Fermanagh	9	4.35	2	3.77
County Londonderry	20	9.66	2	3.77
County Tyrone	10	4.83	5	9.43
Outside Northern Ireland	3	1.45	8	15.09
No fixed abode	13	6.28	10	18.87

SCOTLAND

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229526]

Ann McKechin: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. The Office does not maintain a central record of the pension status of staff; such records are held by the parent Departments.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227467]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not arranged any citizens' juries since 1 July 2007.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many vacant posts in his Department were advertised in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [230598]

Ann McKechin: All the staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from other Government Departments and the Office reimburses those Departments for the costs involved. In the last three years, the Office has directly advertised externally for one post, and contributed towards the advertising costs of a joint campaign with the Scottish Executive for other staff, at a total cost of £8,069.

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230501]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not submitted any documents to the Plain English Campaign for Crystal Mark status.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on Plain English Campaign training courses in each year since 2005. [231238]

Ann McKechin: The main objectives for the Scotland Office set out in its annual report do not envisage the production of documents for public consumption and accordingly it has not felt necessary for staff to attend such courses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EC Countries: Asylum

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that other European Union states share responsibility for providing asylum to those from outside the EU who require it. [227836]

Caroline Flint: The Government have actively participated in the existing Common European Asylum System of directives establishing minimum standards for asylum practices and procedures, and the Dublin Regulation determining responsibility for examining asylum claims.

The Government welcome the opportunity afforded by the European Commission's Policy Plan on Asylum and the Migration Pact which was agreed at the October European Council, to develop greater practical cooperation between member states and non-governmental organisations in the area of asylum.

Falkland Islands: Argentina

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the state of relations between the Falkland Islands and Argentina. [227030]

Gillian Merron: The United Kingdom is responsible for the Falkland Islands' foreign relations. The UK values its relationship with Argentina as an important international partner. We have a close and productive relationship on a range of bilateral and multilateral issues, including human rights, sustainable development and counter-proliferation, and continue to look for practical ways to co-operate with Argentina on a range of South Atlantic issues. However, the Argentine sovereignty claim to the Falkland Islands and the Argentine refusal to recognise the democratically elected Falkland Islands Government, casts a shadow over our relationship. The principle of self-determination, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, underlies our position on the Falkland Islands.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2186W, on Iraq: asylum, how many of the 422 applications received by the UK Border Agency from Iraqi nationals under the Gateway Protection Programme have now been approved; how many new applications have since been received; and how many of these applications have been approved. [227906]

Bill Rammell: Of the 422 Iraqi individuals who had been referred to the UK Border Agency for resettlement under the Gateway Protection Programme before 15 September, 256 individuals (91 case applicants) have so far been approved. Since 15 September, three new case applications (nine individuals) have been received. None of these have yet been approved.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2186W, on Iraq: asylum, of those applications *(a)* received by the UK Border Agency from Iraqi nationals under the Gateway Protection Programme and *(b)* for exceptional leave to remain under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance scheme, how many have included claims for dependants; what the total number is of dependants claimed on each scheme; and how many dependants are associated with those applications which have been approved. [227907]

Bill Rammell: Information on the total number of dependants covered by applications to the locally employed staff assistance scheme is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. To date, 165 dependants have been approved for resettlement in the UK under the Gateway programme, and 51 dependants have been granted indefinite leave to enter under the scheme for serving staff.

Israel: Terrorism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he received of terrorist attacks in the State of Israel since July 2008; what discussions he has had with the Government of the State of Israel on terrorism in Israel since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [227593]

Bill Rammell: We welcome the Gaza ceasefire which has reduced the number of attacks and brought calm to the lives of civilians in both southern Israel and in Gaza. However, the UK remains concerned by any attack against Israel.

There have been five attacks during the period in question in Jerusalem and the State of Israel. These were:

> On 2 July, three Israelis were killed and 66 injured (including two infants) by a Palestinian using a bulldozer to attack cars, pedestrians, and two buses in West Jerusalem.
>
> On 11 July, a border patrolman was shot by a Palestinian terrorist in West Jerusalem. The policeman died on 23 July from his injuries.
>
> On 23 July, 16 Israelis were injured in an attack using a bulldozer in West Jerusalem against a bus and four other vehicles; the driver was killed by police.
>
> On 22 September, 17 soldiers were injured in an attack by a Palestinian driving a car into a group of Israelis at an intersection in West Jerusalem; the driver was shot and killed.
>
> On 23 September, a pipe bomb exploded outside the house of Professor Zeev Sternhell in West Jerusalem. A Jewish right wing terrorist was suspected of carrying out the attack.
>
> There have also been a number of rocket attacks from Gaza into the State of Israel, but there has been no confirmation of any injuries or damage as a result of these attacks.

We discuss various issues, including security, with Israeli officials on a regular basis and will continue to devote our efforts to the Annapolis process with the vision of two states, living side by side in peace and security.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his Department, *(d)* the British Ambassador to Egypt and *(e)* officials in the British Embassy in Egypt have had since August 2008 with the Government of Egypt on the trafficking of (i) weapons and (ii) people into Gaza from Egypt via under-border tunnels; what response was received in each case; what reports he has received on the number of tunnels between Gaza and Egypt that have been (A) discovered and (B) closed; and if he will make a statement. [227595]

Bill Rammell: The UK welcomes any appropriate action taken to reduce trafficking of weapons and people into Gaza. Earlier in the year, we pressed Egypt to act on smuggling. But this issue has not been explicitly raised with the Egyptian authorities since August 2008.

Egypt is actively addressing the issue. With the number of tunnels being discovered and closed constantly changing, we are unable to provide a definitive figure, but we continue to monitor the situation.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons Colonel Karuna was released from UK custody; what assessment he has made of Colonel Karuna's status as a member of the Sri Lanka parliament given the allegations of human rights abuses against him; and if he will make a statement. [227023]

Bill Rammell: Venamoorthi Muralitharan (aka Karuna Amman) was removed from the UK on 2 July, after completing a custodial sentence for possessing false documents. At the time, the Crown Prosecution Service advised that there was insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction in the UK for other offences.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on Sri Lanka's candidacy for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council; and if he will make a statement. [227026]

Bill Rammell: The UK expects every member of the UN Human Rights Council to act in accordance with the spirit of UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 in upholding the highest standards of human rights promotion and protection and co-operating fully with the Council.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to promote freedom of movement for displaced people in the Vanni region of Sri Lanka. [227287]

Bill Rammell: On 26 September, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development stressed to President Rajapakse the need to secure the humanitarian space of some 200 to 250 thousand people affected by renewed conflict.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Michael Foster, on the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka during the debate on 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 240-49WH.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan authorities on recent events in the Vanni region of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [227288]

Bill Rammell: On 26 September, my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for International Development met President Rajapakse in New York and raised the issue of the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka. They stressed the need to secure the humanitarian space and provide humanitarian relief in northern Sri Lanka and called for a sustainable political solution to the conflict.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Sri Lankan Government over their responsibility to *(a)* ensure that security forces operate under the rule of domestic and international law and *(b)* bring to justice those of the security forces who commit crimes, including war crimes and abuses of human rights; and if he will make a statement. [227017]

Bill Rammell: We remain deeply concerned about the humanitarian rights situation in Sri Lanka and urge all parties to the conflict to respect the rights of civilians. We continue to press for full investigation of alleged breaches of international law and action to bring perpetrators to justice. In July, my noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised the UK's concerns over human rights in Sri Lanka with the Sri Lankan government, including with President Rajapakse, and the Defence Secretary, Gotabhaya Rajapakse.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent statement by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the misrepresentation of its findings by the Sri Lankan Government. [227027]

Bill Rammell: We share the International Committee of the Red Cross's concerns over the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, expressed similar concerns to President Rajapakse, his Ministers and senior officials during his visit to Sri Lanka this summer.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of progress in implementing a consultation process with the population of the Nuba Mountains as part of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [226729]

Gillian Merron: We have had no reports of progress in implementing the consultation process with the population in the Nuba Mountains. We are monitoring developments in the region because of the specific references to the Nuba Mountains in the Comprehensive Peace Agreements, which we continue to press all parties to implement in full.

UN Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reservations have been sought by the Government on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and if he will make a statement. [204963]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The United Kingdom signed the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1981, and ratified with reservations in 1986. The UK reservations in 1986 were general reservations (a-d), and specific reservations on article 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16. Since that time the Government have not sought any new reservations on the Convention and have withdrawn a number of reservations, most notably in 1995 and 1996.

The UK's sixth periodic report to the CEDAW committee on progress towards the implementation of the Convention was submitted on 1 May 2007. The report notes that the UK has withdrawn the CEDAW reservation relating to immigration and has modified the reservation relating to the throne and the armed forces. The UK currently has reservations on: general reservations (a, c, and d), and specific reservations on article 9, 11, 15(3) and 16.

The current reservations will be reviewed in 2008-09 as part of the follow up plan from the UK's examination by the CEDAW Committee in July 2008.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will provide a breakdown by main budget heading of the *(a)* £66 million contribution to paralympic costs and *(b)* £32 million allocated to the Look of London contained in the public sector funding package for London 2012. [229335]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The £66 million is the Government's planned contribution, within the £9.325 billion funding package, towards the hosting of the Paralympic games by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). The precise breakdown of costs will need to be agreed between LOCOG and the Government as detailed plans for the Paralympics develop.

Expenditure on the Look of London is expected to take place in the financial years of 2011-12 and 2012-13. The breakdown of costs within this £32 million funding will be determined in the next spending round, and detailed budgets agreed nearer the time.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what IT projects the Government Equalities Office is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the completion date of each is. [229171]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office is currently rebuilding its website at an estimated cost of £40,000. The project will be completed by the end of 2008. There are no other IT projects under way.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within the Government Equalities Office since its creation. [228785]

Maria Eagle: Over the past 12 months the Government Equalities Office has spent £2,600 on overnight accommodation.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many citizens' juries the Government Equalities Office has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227485]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has not held any citizens' juries since 1 July 2007.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in the Government Equalities Office since its creation. [228944]

Maria Eagle: There have been two instances of building passes being lost since the Government Equalities Office (GEO) was created. These are included in the figures provided by my hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) for the Department for Communities and Local Government London headquarters building, where most of GEO's staff are based.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many civil servants in the Government Equalities Office were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since its inception. [229109]

Maria Eagle: No civil servants in the Government Equalities Office have been seconded to work for *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress since its inception.

Domestic Violence: Sentencing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many successful prosecutions for domestic violence against women have resulted in a prison sentence for the perpetrator in the last five years. [227212]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to identify separately domestic violence offences on the court proceedings database as the circumstances of offences are not collected centrally.

National Equalities Panel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the cost of *(a)* establishing the National Equalities Panel, *(b)* running the panel in its first year and *(c)* the salary which will be paid to panel members. [229115]

Maria Eagle: The total cost of the Panel is likely to be £400,000 over two financial years. It will be met by a Government research grant to the London School of Economics. Payment of the grant will be dependent on completion of agreed stages in the project. The Chair and panel members, who are leading experts in their fields will be paid £1,000 per day, for a maximum of 80 days for the Chair and eight days for each member.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Intimidation

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many calls have been logged on the armed forces anti-bullying confidential support line in the last 12 months; what procedures are in place to ensure that steps are taken to address *(a)* allegations of bullying and *(b)* identify patterns of abuse and bullying blackspots; and by what means the Service Complaints Commissioner is kept informed. [230898]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces do not run an 'armed forces anti-bullying confidential support line'. However, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association runs a 'confidential support line' for a range of issues such as welfare, health and terms of service including concerns about bullying and harassment. The support line is available to serving personnel (of all services) together with their families and former members of the armed forces.

Calls to the support line are logged under a series of generic headings including 'equality and diversity' which includes those concerning bullying, harassment and discrimination. During the period January to December 2007, the most recent period for which figures are available, 170 calls from serving service personnel relating to equality and diversity issues were logged, together with a further 19 from family members and veterans.

The Department's unified diversity strategy makes clear that bullying and harassment are not tolerated under any circumstances and that the penalties for offenders are potentially severe.

Joint Service Publication 763 'The MOD Harassment Complaints Procedure' sets out the procedures for all MOD Service and civilian personnel making, responding to, advising on, investigating, and deciding on, complaints of harassment.

All units are required to have at least one qualified Equality and Diversity Advisor (EDA); larger units will have several. In addition to providing help and advice to individuals, EDAs are required to keep unit equality and diversity logs. The logs are regularly reviewed by unit commanders and statistical information is drawn upon by a tri-Service Evaluation Group (at commodore, colonel and group captain level) chaired by the Director Service Personnel Service Conditions along with other reports and statistics to identify trends and areas of concern.

While conducting unit visits, the independent Service Complaints Commissioner is given access to unit logs and it has recently been agreed that she will also be provided with statistics from these logs bi-annually.

Armed Forces: Leave

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days lost were recorded for service personnel in respect of *(a)* rest and recuperation, *(b)* post-operational tour and *(c)* annual leave in each year since 2003. [230171]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Rest and Recuperation (R&R) is not classified as an entitlement and is given at the discretion of the chain of command. Leave, including post operational leave, should be recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. The Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) undertake an annual leave survey designed to estimate the leave taken, carried forward and lost but it does not distinguish those personnel who were not able to take forward leave from those who chose to carry it forward to the next year. The survey findings from 1997-08 to 2006-07 are available in the Library of the House but, due to JPA data migration issues, DASA have not been able to conduct the 2007-08 survey.

Armed Forces: Termination of Employment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel leaving the armed forces in each year since 2001 had completed *(a)* under five years service, *(b)* between five and 22 years service and *(c)* over 22 years service. [230160]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of service personnel leaving the trained UK regular forces[1] in each financial year since 2001-02 is provided in the table:

[1] Outflow from the UK Regular Forces includes recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment. The Royal Irish Regiment disbanded on 31 March 2008.

Trained outflow by length of service -

	All services	*Fewer than five years*	*Five to 22 years*	*Over 22 years*
2001-02	17,930	5,470	7,690	4,770
2002-03	16,850	5,380	6,560	4,920
2003-04	16,460	5,540	6,510	4,420
2004-05	17,600	5,970	7,060	4,580
2005-06	18,140	5,440	7,310	5,400
2006-07[1]	[2]18,870	[2]5,450	[2]7,900	[2]5,230
2007-08	[2]18,010	[2]4,660	[2]9,250	[2]4,100

[1] Army outflow data split by length of service is unavailable for 1 March 2007 to 31 March 2007. Therefore, Army outflow figures broken down by length of service for FY 2006-07 comprises data from 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007. The total trained outflow for UK Regular Forces for financial year 2006-07 was 18,870. The sum of the fewer than five years length of service, five to 22 years length of service and over 22 years service quoted in this table is 18,580.

[2] Denotes provisional. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all service flow statistics for financial year 2006-07 and 2007-08 are provisional and subject to review.

Source:

DASA Quad Service

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instructors have enrolled in and completed training at the Staff Leadership School at Pirbright; how many and what proportion of instructors have completed the Train the Trainer courses; and what target date he has set for the completion of mandatory training for all instructors on the training estate. [230789]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A total of 2,244 instructors have enrolled and completed courses at the Army Staff Leadership School (ASLS) at Pirbright since its opening in April 2007. Of those, 1,791 completed the full and accredited Defence Train the Trainer (DTTT) course and the remainder completed an appropriately tailored version for personnel working in proximity of, but not directly instructing, trainees. At 30 September 2008 the proportion of instructors trained by ASLS was 81 per cent. across the training establishments commanded by Director General Army Recruiting and Training.

The revised policy for staff delivering formal training, issued on 1 August 2008, requires all instructors to gain this qualification. This should, ideally, be achieved prior to taking up their instructional post or, where this is not possible, within three months of taking up instructional duties during which time they are to be very closely supervised. Work is in hand to ensure that all instructors in initial formal training have received the DTTT course, the current target being to ensure that, by December 2008, 95 per cent. of instructors have been trained.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken by the Army to establish and maintain central records of written policy changes within the training estate. [230821]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army's policy for recruit training is maintained by Headquarters (HQ) Army Recruiting and Training Division (ARTD) and is derived from Defence and other Army policies. It is promulgated via the ARTD handbook, a web based document which is available to all Army training units via the Army Intranet. Each element of policy is owned by an officer within the HQ who is responsible for ensuring the published policy is kept up to date.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recruits enrolled in the Army Junior Entry Phase 1 training at *(a)* Army Foundation College Harrogate, *(b)* Army Training Regiment Winchester and *(c)* other establishments in 2007; and what progress has been made extending the duration of Phase 1 training at Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn. [230900]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In financial year 2007-08, 1,309 Junior Entry recruits commenced training at the Army Foundation College Harrogate and 863 at Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn.

Junior Entry training switched from Bassingbourn to Army Training Regiment Winchester in August/September 2008. This is in line with the recommendation in Sir Nicholas Blake QC's "Deepcut Review" that those under 17 should be trained in establishments catering exclusively for this age group. Prior to this, no junior entry training was conducted at Winchester.

There are currently no plans to extend the Junior Entry Phase 1 course at Winchester beyond its present 23 weeks, which consists of 20 weeks tuition and three weeks leave.

Armed Forces: Young People

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* 16-year-olds and *(b)* 17-year-olds were recruited into each of the armed services in (i) 2002 and (ii) 2007; and how many recruits aged under 18 years of age were allocated to units for military duties. [230899]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of 16 and 17-year-olds that were recruited into each service of the UK regular armed forces[1] in the financial years 2002-03 and 2007-08.

	All services		*Naval service*		*Army*		*RAF*	
	16	*17*	*16*	*17*	*16*	*17*	*16*	*17*
2002-03	4,430	5,035	585	970	3,600	3,330	245	735
2007-08	[1]2,575	[1]3,405	[1]280	[1]550	[1]2,200	[1]2,550	[1]95	[1]305

[1] Provisional.

Source:

DASA Quad-Service.

Armed forces personnel are not allocated to units for military duties until they have completed training. The number of trained UK regular armed forces[1] personnel under the age of 18 as at 1 April 2002, 2003, 2007 and 2008 is shown in the following table.

[1] UK Regular Forces includes all trained and untrained personnel. Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve personnel, and mobilised reservists are excluded.

As at 1 April	*All services*	*Naval service*	*Army*	*RAF*
2002	1,060	205	755	100
2003	1,190	255	830	100
2007	[1]770	85	[1]675	10
2008	[1]640	[1]110	[1]515	[1]10

[1] Provisional.

Note:

Due to ongoing validation of data from the joint personnel administration system, all Naval service flow statistics for 12-month periods ending 31 October 2006 onwards, and Naval service strength statistics from 1 May 2007 are provisional and subject to review. All Army flow statistics for 12-month periods ending 31 March 2007 onwards and strength statistics from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review. All RAF flow statistics for 12-month periods ending 30 April 2007 onwards and strength statistics from 1 May 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

Source:

DASA Quad-Service.

The Government have made a clear commitment to take all feasible measures to ensure that those who had not yet reached the age of 18 did not take a direct part in hostilities.

Army: Training

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures are in place to monitor delays in Phase 2 training in the army; how many individuals were subject to delays in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2007; what record is kept of individual training plans; and how statistical information is collected on training. [230830]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army Recruiting and Training Division (ARTD) Headquarters do not record the total number of individuals who are subject to delays per calendar year. A monthly report is created by each Arms and Service school illustrating those recruits who have been delayed in commencing aspects of Phase 2 training. Courses start and finish all the time and so this figure should only be considered a 'snapshot' of the delays in the training pipeline at a particular point in time.

The following table gives the average number of recruits who have amassed more than a 14 day cumulative delay prior to reaching Phase 2 training. Data is collected within the first five days of each month. These snapshots of data over the months of the financial years shown have been averaged to show the general standard of delays to Phase 2 in the years requested.

Prior to the end of Phase 1, recruits receive a plan which outlines what Phase 2 consists of and they also visit their Phase 2 establishment. During their Phase 2 induction week, they are given an individual training plan which details their proposed training schedule. Delays can be caused by a number of factors, not all of which are within the Army's control. However, ARTD takes positive steps to minimise delays. Where delays are unavoidable training programmes are run so as to maintain interest, fitness and military skills. A recruit would normally have leave between courses and delays are therefore not calculated until after 14 days.

Number of recruits with more than 14 days delay

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Average monthly figure*
2005-06	700	687	652	673	654	592	644	648	1363	632	710	663	718
2007-08	809	848	775	836	820	876	794	826	979	886	n/a	896	850

Note:

1. No data was available in February 2008 due to a two week system disruption.

Defence

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for a new defence review. [227868]

Mr. Hutton: There are currently no plans for a new defence review. Defence policy and commitments are kept under continuous review.

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the proposed Directive *(a)* COM(2007) 0766 on public procurement in the fields of defence and security and *(b)* COM(2007) 0765 on terms and conditions of defence-related product transfers within the EC; and if he will make a statement. [230244]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We share the Commission's desire for the creation of a more effective European defence equipment market that is open, transparent and competitive. We are working positively with the Commission and other member states to reach agreement on directives which would provide benefit to the conduct of defence business for all stakeholders while protecting the UK's strategic interests. A defence and security procurement directive also has the potential to improve British industry's access to European defence markets and to improve its competitiveness worldwide. The proposed terms of the transfers directive are consistent with the way in which the UK export licensing system currently operates.

Departmental Consultations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what public consultations his Department has undertaken in the last month. [230170]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence had two open public consultations during the month of September. Consultation on UK Defence Spectrum Management closed on 5 September 2008, and consultation on the MOD's revised Welsh Language Scheme closed on

8 October. Documents for public consultation and the MOD's response to comments that are received can be viewed at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/ConsultationsandCommunications/PublicConsultations/RevisedModWelshLanguageScheme.htm

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229180]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The specific number of civil servants employed by the Ministry of Defence who were recruited through the Fast Stream whether into the Ministry of Defence directly, or via other Departments, is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. As at 21 October 2008 there were 131 civil servants employed by the Ministry of Defence on the Fast Stream scheme. Those who joined the Department on the current pay deal will earn between a minimum of £22,960 and a maximum of £40,515 per year while on the scheme.

Hercules Aircraft: Safety

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice Ministers had received prior to 2005 on fitting of foam suppressant on the Hercules wing-tanks. [230525]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None.

Military Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of training exercises have been cancelled in 2008; and for what reason each exercise was cancelled. [230169]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Of the 584 training exercises scheduled to take place in 2008, 55 have been cancelled (9.4 per cent.); reasons for each cancellation are listed as follows.

Ser	*Exercise name*	*Start*	*End*	*Reason for cancellation*
1.	Lion Sun 12—07/08	1 January 20008	29 February 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Lion Sun 13—07/08	1 January 2008	29 February 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Snow Falcon 08	10 January 2008	25 January 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Red Flag 08-2.1	13 January2008	26 January 2008	Alternative exercise opportunity pursued
1.	Oak Apple	24 January 2008	5 April 2008	Kenyan domestic instability
1.	Grand Prix 3—07/08	28 January 2008	20 March 2008	Kenyan domestic instability
1.	Lion Sun 14—07/08	1 February 2008	31 March 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Red Flag 08-2.2	2 February 2008	15 February 2008	Alternative exercise opportunity pursued
1.	Noble Midas	4 February 2008	16 February 2008	Airframe availability
1.	Druids Dance 9—07/08	18 February 2008	9 March 2008	Re-programming removed need for exercise
1.	Green Flag West 08-4	20 February 2008-	7 March 2008	Alternative exercise opportunity pursued
1.	Lone Fin 08	5 March 2008	16 March 2008	Savings measure
1.	Grand Prix 1—08/09	10 March 2008	26 April 2008	Kenyan domestic instability
1.	Spontex 08-1	12 March 2008	25 March 2008	No aircraft availability
1.	Makran Osprey	31 March 2008	11 April 2008	Political instability in Pakistan forced withdrawal of the AIR component and made the Ex untenable
1.	Bald Eagle 08/09	1 April 2008	1 May 2008	No unit available
1.	Lion Sun 1—08/09	18 April 2008	16 May 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Sphinx	21 April 2008	30 April 2008	No AAR available
1.	Lion Sun 2—08/09	25 April 2008	23 May 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Bass Rock 08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Exchange Cancelled at Canadian request
1.	Fingals Cave 08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Exchange Cancelled at Canadian request
1.	Flying Rose 2—08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Exchange Cancelled at US request
1.	Mulberry Tree/Prickly Pear 08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Exchange with US. Cancelled by mutual agreement due to lack of available forces on either side
1.	Stoney Run 08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Exchange ex—UK leg went ahead but US leg cancelled due to unavailability of AT
1.	Winged Star 08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Airborne focused exchange. Neither UK nor US airborne forces available due to ops
1.	Lion Sun 3—08/09	30 May 2008	27 June 2008	Savings Measure
1.	150 Tpt Regt(V) Oban Trg	31 May 2008	1 June2008	Trg area unavailable
1.	Frukus	1 June 2008	28 June 2008	Russia/Georgia dispute resulted in cancellation
1.	Blue Flag	2 June 2008	13 June 2008	Cancelled by host nation (USA)
1.	Elite	2 June 2008	18 June 2008	Savings measure
1.	Loyal Arrow	16 June 2008	27 June 2008	Ex cancelled by NATO
1.	Coop Mako 08	19 June 2008	30 June 2008	Cancelled by sponsor
1.	Lion Sun 4—08/09	20 June 2008	18 July 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Batus Run	23 June 2008	29 June 2008	Change to dates prevented Air participation
1.	Lion Sun 5—08/09	27 June 2008	25 July 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Uhlan Eagle 08/09	1 July 2008	30 July 2008	Re-programming removed need for exercise
1.	Trg weekend 150 Tpt Regt (V)	14 July 2008	15 July 2008	Trg area unavailable

Ser	*Exercise name*	*Start*	*End*	*Reason for cancellation*
1.	First Jog	15 July 2008	17 July 2008	Ex Objs reached in an earlier exercise
1.	Lion Sun 6—08/09	18 July 2008	15 August 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Lion Sun 7—08/09	25 July 2008	22 August 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Lion Sun 8—08/09	15 August 2008	12 September 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Lion Sun 9—08/09	22 August 2008	19 September 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Outreach 4—Georgian Express	1 September 2008	1 October 2008	Russian-Georgian hostilities
1.	Slovak Hawk	1 September 2008	8 September 2008	Budget cuts
1.	Tricolour 3—08/09	1 September 2008	1 October 2008	No unit available
1.	Lion Sun 10—08/09	12 September 2008	10 October 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Lion Sun 11—08/09	19 September 2008	17 October 2008	Savings Measure
1.	Log Provider 08	22 September 2008	3 October 0208	Operational Commitments
1.	Sapper Sands	29 September 2008	10 October 2008	Unit unavailable
1.	Trg Ex—75 Engr Regt (V)	11 October 2008	12 October 2008	Operational Commitments
1.	Trg Ex—75 Engr Regt (V)	25 October 20-08	26 October 2008	Operational Commitments
1.	Trg Ex—75 Engr Regt (V)	30 October 2008	31 October 2008	Operational Commitments
1.	Uhlan Barbara 08/09	1 November 2008	25 November 2008	Re-programming removed need for exercise
1.	Flotex Silver	24 November 2008	5 December 2008	Host nation reduced scale of Ex to National only, cancelling INVITEX component
1.	White Phoenix	1 December 2008	5 December 2008	Training moved to early 2009

Persian Gulf: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many seaborne incidents in the Persian Gulf involving coalition forces and *(a)* armed gangs and *(b)* the Iranian navy have been recorded since January 2008. [230159]

Mr. Hutton: Since January 2008 there have been no recorded significant seaborne incidents between coalition forces and non-state forces in the Persian Gulf. Coalition ships operating in the Persian Gulf regularly interact with the Iranian navy but since January 2008 there have been no reports of significant incidents of concern.

Submarines: Decommissioning

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in the development of plans for the dismantling and storage of submarines at Plymouth and Rosyth. [231275]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As stated in the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 312W, to the hon. Member for South-West Devon (Mr. Streeter), the ISOLUS project team continues to take forward technical and siting issues in conjunction with stakeholder groups, with a technical options study due to conclude by the end of this year, and the project procurement strategy being developed within the context of the Defence Industrial Strategy. The project remains committed to further public consultation before major decisions are made.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airports: Foreign Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to check members of foreign aircrew landing in the UK for *(a)* immigration status and *(b)* criminal offences. [228673]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: Crew members who are based in the United Kingdom and those who arrive as passengers in order to join an aircraft as a member of the crew, are subject to the same controls and checks as other passengers. In line with the Immigration Act 1971, other arriving aircrew are able to enter the UK without leave from an immigration officer, provided they are embarking as crew within seven days.

This concession is monitored through joint operations conducted by the UK Border Agency, HM Revenue and Customs and the police, on a risk-assessed, intelligence-led basis. Close liaison is maintained with the carriers regarding any criminal offences committed by those allowed to operate in this country as aircrew.

In future, e-Borders will require carriers to provide all passenger and crew data to the UK Border Agency, in advance of travel, for journeys to and from the United Kingdom. This data will be checked against watchlists and when a person of interest is identified, the relevant law enforcement agency will be notified. A comprehensive travel history will also be maintained, allowing us to record who has travelled to the United Kingdom, whether as crew or passenger, and when they have left.

Antisocial Behaviour: Liverpool

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will visit the Croxteth and Norris Green districts of Liverpool in the near future to discuss anti social behaviour with the police and representatives of the local communities. [229754]

Mr. Alan Campbell: My right hon. Friend has no plans to visit the Croxteth and Norris Green districts of Liverpool in the near future. However, we have provided practitioners including the police with a wide range of tools and powers to tackle antisocial behaviour, issue guidance on their use, provide information through a practitioner website and set up a free telephone advice line to provide specific support on individual problems. We also deliver regional workshops to help local practitioners make the best use of the available tools and powers.

Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of absconding was of *(a)* single men, *(b)* single women, *(c)* families and *(d)* unaccompanied child asylum seekers who were not held in detention and whose claim for asylum had (i) been refused with removal from the United Kingdom imminent, (ii) been refused and where removal from the United Kingdom was not possible on human rights or humanitarian grounds and (iii) were yet to be processed in the latest period for which figures are available. [227555]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department provides to the authorities in the country of origin of an asylum seeker without documents as part of the re-documentation process. [229278]

Mr. Woolas: In cases where a travel document is required information is exchanged with embassies and high commissions, but this is limited to personal biographical data related to the individual applicant. Information relating to any asylum claim is treated in confidence and is not disclosed to the authorities, unless the claimant has given his consent for the transfer of the data.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to determine the asylum application of Phindintombi Ndlovu, Ref No N1062839. [230786]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 23 October 2008.

Asylum: Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration was given to arranging for independent interpreters to be present during all interviews that took place in March and April 2007 between Sudanese officials and Sudanese asylum seekers at her Department's facilities. [228391]

Mr. Woolas: Since 22 March 2007 independent interpreters have been used at interviews between Sudanese officials and Sudanese asylum seekers.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Sudanese asylum seekers were deported following re-documentation interviews in March and April 2007 were from Darfur. [229279]

Mr. Woolas: Of the Sudanese nationals interviewed in March and April 2007, there have been two enforced returns of Darfuri asylum seekers and a further departure which was made voluntarily.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps were taken in response to the complaint made by a Darfuri asylum seeker against a Sudanese official as part of the re-documentation interviews of March and April 2007. [229296]

Mr. Woolas: Following receipt of a complaint made by an individual regarding the interview conducted by a Sudanese official, the UK Border Agency amended the interview process. Since 22 March 2007 independent interpreters have been present at each interview; the interpreters are required to sign a disclaimer to confirm that discussions at the interview are professional and relevant to the documentation process only.

Asylum: Work Permits

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what grounds may a work permit be refused to an asylum seeker who has been awaiting a decision upon an asylum application for more than a year. [222790]

Mr. Woolas: An asylum applicant may apply for permission to take up employment if a decision has not been taken on the applicant's asylum application within one year of the date on which it was recorded. The application to take employment will only be considered if the delay in reaching a decision cannot be attributed to the applicant.

Border and Immigration Agency: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the parliamentary business unit of the Immigration and Nationality Department plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's letter of 17 July 2008 on his constituent Rangarirai Mukora. [228688]

Mr. Woolas: The letter of 17 July was not received in my office however a letter from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West dated 3 October 2008 addressed to the Regional Director in Glasgow regarding the same matter was replied to on 6 October 2008.

Borders: Personal Records

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she takes to track the identities of individuals *(a)* entering and *(b)* leaving the UK. [229346]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: The Government's electronic borders system—e-Borders—allows us to count all passengers and crew in and out of the UK. To date, the e-Borders system has screened over 70 million passengers travelling to and from the UK from approximately 100 carriers on over 150 routes. This has resulted in 30,000 alerts being issued and over 2,500 arrests.

British Nationality: Gurkhas

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on the grant of UK citizenship to Gurkhas who have served in the armed forces. [229848]

Mr. Woolas: The requirements for naturalisation as a British citizen are as set out in section 6 of and schedule 1 of the British Nationality Act 1981. A person applying for naturalisation must have been lawfully present in the United Kingdom for a period of five years ending on the date of the application. Within that period he or she should not have been outside the United Kingdom for more than 450 days. For a person married to or the civil partner of a British citizen, the residential qualifying period is reduced to three years.

There is discretion to overlook periods of absence from the UK during the five or three year qualifying period. The current policy is to overlook any such absence if it was due to the applicant's (or his or her spouse's or civil partner's) service in the United Kingdom forces. However this discretion is not exercised if, at the time of consideration, the applicant is still serving as a member of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

The difference in treatment between Gurkhas and non-Gurkhas is due to the understanding between the Nepalese and United Kingdom Governments that those serving in the Brigade of Gurkhas should remain Nepalese citizens during their periods of service. Nepalese nationality law provides that any citizen of Nepal who acquires another nationality will automatically lose Nepalese citizenship. It would therefore not be right to bestow British citizenship on Gurkha soldiers since they would, as a result, automatically lose their existing Nepalese citizenship. For this reason, and in order to avoid jeopardising the special relationship that currently exists between the United Kingdom and Nepal, there are no plans to grant British citizenship automatically to serving Gurkha soldiers.

If, however, Gurkhas transfer into other units of the British army on completion of five years service in the Brigade or they become settled in the UK after discharge from service they would then be able to apply for naturalisation as British citizens under section 6 of the British Nationality Act 1981 on the same terms as other non-British service personnel.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any officials in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies were disciplined or dismissed for (i) breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205901]

Mr. Woolas: The answer is provided in the following tables.

Home Office:

Data protection breaches

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	0	0

Inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	0	<5

Identity and Passport Service

Data protection breaches

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*
2005-06	<5	<5
2006-07	6	5
2007-08	8	7

Inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*
2005-06	<5	<5
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	<5	<5

UK Border Agency

Data protection breaches:

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*
2005-06	<5	<5
2006-07	0	<5
2007-08	<5	<5

Inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data:

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*
2005-06	<5	<5
2006-07	0	<5
2007-08	0	<5

Criminal Records Bureau

Nil return.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [227603]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 October 2008]*: Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. This is done with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising.

The following table shows how much the Home Office has spent on advertising campaigns over the last five years.

Home Office advertising

	Amount (£000)
2003-04	12,062
2004-05	11,314
2005-06	9,348
2006-07	13,658
2007-08	8,144

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants working in her Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229550]

Mr. Woolas: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Resource Accounts for financial year (2007-08) can be accessed electronically using the following link.

Home Office Resource Accounts 2007-08 (pages 29 to 32 refer):

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/resource-accounts-07-08?view=Binary

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which companies were used by her Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229079]

Mr. Woolas: The expenditure with each of the companies that the Home Department has used for the provision of temporary agency staff for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 is given in the following table.

Suppler	*Financial year*	*HO Headquarters(£)*	*IPS (£)*	*CRB (£)*
Adecco	2007-08	0	320,000	0
Angela Mortimer	2007-08	0	101,000	0
Brook Street	2007-08	1,810,000	63,000	0
Employment Plus	2007-08	353,000	0	0
Hays	2007-08	816,000	0	0
Kelly Services	2007-08	52,000	55,000	6,812
Manpower	2007-08	0	49,000	0
Northern Recruitment	2007-08	377,000	0	0
Office Angels	2007-08	1,459,000	0	0
Reed	2007-08	759,000	0	31,221
Step Ahead	2007-08	0	140,000	0
Adecco	2006-07	0	508,000	0
Angela Mortimer	2006-07	0	7,000	0
Brook Street	2006-07	3,150,000	144,000	6,110
Employment Plus	2006-07	1,092,000	0	0
Hays	2006-07	323,000	0	5,584
Kelly Services	2006-07	56,000	321,000	0
Manpower	2006-07	0	128,000	0
Northern Recruitment	2006-07	370,000	0	0
Office Angels	2006-07	3,065,000	0	0
Reed	2006-07	943,000	0	3,800
Step Ahead	2006-07	0	54,000	0

Information for prior periods is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Seizures

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many seizures of illicit drugs there were at *(a)* Heathrow Airport, *(b)* Gatwick Airport, *(c)* Stansted Airport, *(d)* the Port of Dover and *(e)* the Port of Felixstowe in each of the last 10 years; and what the estimated street value of each such seizure was. [226648]

Mr. Woolas: National seizure figures are published in the Annual reports for HM Revenue and Customs and HM Customs and Excise. Information below a national level is not disclosed.

Entry Clearances: Middle East

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Palestinians and *(b)* Israelis have been refused entry into the UK because of their links to violence, terrorism or other armed criminal acts in the last 12 months. [229901]

Mr. Woolas: During the 12-month period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008, UK Border Agency records show that 10 Israelis were refused entry to the UK at ports, on the grounds that their exclusion was conducive to the public good. This category covers, but is not limited to, the offences listed in the present question. UKBA records show that no Palestinians were refused entry for this reason, during the same period.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have *(a)* been interviewed for the national identity card scheme and *(b)* received a biometric residence permit. [230629]

Mr. Woolas: Applications for identity cards can be accepted only on and after 25 November 2008.

On 25 November 2008, foreign nationals, subject to immigration control, who are applying to extend their leave in the UK under certain student categories, as a spouse, civil partner or unmarried partner under the immigration rules will be issued with an identity card if leave is granted.

Illegal Immigrants: Police Custody

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those arrested were identified as illegal immigrants in each of the last five years; and how many of these were *(a)* detained in police cells or immigration removal centres and *(b)* not detained but referred to a Home Office Unit. [179817]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Data on numbers of individuals arrested was only available from April 2005. Arrests on suspicion of being illegal immigrants during this period were:

	Arrests on suspicion of being illegal immigrants	*Operational enforcement visits*
2005 (April to December)	9,209	8,364
2006	11,870	13,991
2007	10,757	15,099

In "Enforcing the Deal: Our plans for Enforcing the Immigration Laws in the United Kingdom's communities", published on 19 June 2008, we set out our enforcement priorities. Our attention is centred on taking action against organised criminals, facilitators and employers who break the law. We have focussed over 1,000 additional enforcement staff on enforcement duties whose duties include issuing civil penalties against employers, compliance visits and removal of those who present the greatest harm.

Information on those detained in police cells, immigration removal centres or not detained but referred to a Home Office unit is not collated. Relevant information might be recorded on individual case files but could be obtained only by detailed examination of each record at disproportionate cost.

The data provided is based on management information and is not a national statistic. It should be treated as provisional as it may be subject to change.

Immigration

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to deal with people who make false declarations of their country of residence on immigration cards at the UK border. [229946]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency landing cards collect data by nationality, but do not record the country of residence of arriving passengers.

Immigration: Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the likely effects of climate change on numbers of *(a)* immigrants and *(b)* asylum seekers entering the UK in the next 10 years. [223559]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 September 2008]:* The Department has been working to identify potential areas of risk it may face as a result of climate change, which can be found here:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/adapt/programme/home-office.htm.

The global impact of climate change could affect the levels and patterns of migration to and from the UK, but the links are complex and there is no consensus among the scientific community. This will be kept under review.

Immigration: Occupied Territories

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people whose home addresses are in illegal Israeli settlements entered the UK in the last 12 months. [229945]

Mr. Woolas: As Israelis are non-visa nationals, the United Kingdom Border Agency does not routinely collect nor record their home addresses when they are seeking to enter the UK.

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many documents produced by her Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230498]

Mr. Woolas: Although the Home Office is a corporate member of the Plain English Campaign no central records are maintained of the take-up of their services by individual parts of the organisation. The information requested cannot be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many documents produced by her Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231109]

Mr. Woolas: Although the Home Office is a corporate member of the Plain English Campaign no central records are maintained of the take-up of their services by individual parts of the organisation. The information requested cannot therefore be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Police Authorities: Bank Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the financial exposure of each police authority to the Icelandic banking crisis is, expressed in cash terms. [228228]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* Based on information provided to us by the Association of Police Authorities, the details requested are set out in the following table.

Police authority investments in Icelandic banks

Police authority	*Investments (£ million)*
Avon and Somerset Police Authority	0.00
Bedfordshire Police Authority	0.00
British Transport Police Authority	—
Cambridgeshire Police Authority	0.00
Cheshire Police Authority	0.00
City of London Police Authority	0.00
Cleveland Police Authority	0.00
Cumbria Police Authority	0.00
Derbyshire Police Authority	0.00
Devon and Cornwall Police Authority	0.00
Dorset Police Authority	7.00
Durham Police Authority	0.00
Dyfed-Powys Police Authority	2.00
Essex Police Authority	0.00
Gloucestershire Police Authority	0.00
Greater Manchester Police Authority	0.00
Gwent Police Authority	1.00
Hampshire Police Authority	0.00
Hertfordshire Police Authority	3.00
Humberside Police Authority	5.75
Kent Police Authority	11.10
Lancashire Police Authority via LCC	0.67
Leicestershire Police Authority	0.00
Lincolnshire Police Authority	0.00
Merseyside Police Authority	0.00
Metropolitan Police Authority	30.00
Norfolk Police Authority	0.00
North Wales Police Authority	0.00
North Yorkshire Police Authority	0.00
Northamptonshire Police Authority	0.00
Northern Ireland Policing Board	—
Northumbria Police Authority	3.50
Nottinghamshire Police Authority	0.00
South Wales Police Authority,	7.00
South Yorkshire Police Authority	0.00
Staffordshire Police Authority	0.00
Suffolk Police Authority	0.00
Surrey Police Authority	1.50
Sussex Police Authority	6.80
Thames Valley Police Authority	5.00
Warwickshire Police Authority	0.00
West Mercia Police Authority	0.00
West Midlands Police Authority	5.40
West Yorkshire Police Authority	6.00
Wiltshire Police Authority	0.00
Total	95.72

Source:
Association of Police Authorities

Police: Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were made to each police authority about an individual's profile since 2005; how many requests were *(a)* agreed to and *(b)* refused in each of those years; how many refusals were subject to appeal to the Information Commissioner in each of those years; how many appeals were successful; if she will place in the Library copies of the material subsequently provided in each case; how much was spent by each police authority opposing each appeal; which (i) consultants and (ii) law firms were employed by each police authority in connection with each appeal; and if she will make a statement. [229508]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Police: Lancashire

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in *(a)* Hyndburn constituency and *(b)* the Lancashire Constabulary area in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [229254]

Mr. Coaker: The information is as follows:

(a) Police personnel data are not available by parliamentary constituency, but are available for the basic command unit (BCU). Hyndburn falls within the Eastern BCU which had 598 officers on 31 March 2008. The earliest available BCU data is for March 2002 when Eastern BCU had 562 officers.

(b) The numbers of full-time equivalent officers in Lancashire as at 31 March 1997 were 3,248, and as at 31 March 2008 were 3,609.

Police: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the annual change in the cost to the public purse of the 2006 changes to the national police pension scheme; and if she will make a statement. [229488]

Mr. Coaker: The new police pension scheme, under which police officers can build up maximum benefits over 35 years instead of 30 years, was introduced in April 2006 and applies to all new entrants since that point. The savings for 2008-09 as a result of that change are estimated to be 0.8 per cent. of pensionable pay, and 6.9 per cent. in the long term. Based on the current pensionable pay bill these savings equate to around £45 million and £390 million a year respectively.

Population

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to set a limit for UK population size; and if she will make a statement. [231219]

Mr. Woolas: The Government are undertaking sweeping reform of the immigration system. This includes introduction of the points-based system to ensure only those the UK really needs come here to work. The points-based system is flexible and responsive to the needs of the economy and we will use these levers taking advice from the Migration Advisory Committee on where our economy needs migration and from the Migration Impacts Forum to tell us about the pace of change that is right. We will continue to examine population projections to inform our use of the flexibility inherent in the points-based system.

Travel Requirements: Fees and Charges

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what forecasts her Department has made of levels of fee income from *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign nationals for passport, visa and other immigration-related documents and services in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010, (iv) 2011 and (v) 2012. [227532]

Mr. Woolas: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) and UK Border Agency (UKBA) are the two Home Office service providers for passports, visas and other immigration document and services.

IPS is currently forecasting that it will receive in the region of £377 million in passport related fees in the 2008-09 financial year.

The budgeted figure for passport related fees for the 2009-10 financial year will be finalised early next year. Forecasts of passport related fees for the years after 2009-10 can only be made after the outcome of a full fees and charges strategy review is completed. An IPS fees and charges strategy review is needed as ID cards are being introduced for British citizens from 2009. IPS will need to reassess its future product prices as it will have to recover its costs over a different range of products. UKBA forecasts are independent of IPS fees and charges strategy as the visa and immigration documents business is separate from the passport and ID card business.

The UKBA estimate of fee income for 2008-09 from visa applications is £300 million. The estimated fee income for 2008-09 from in-country applications is £350 million.

UKBA is reviewing the position for 2009-10 for in and out-of country fees in the run-up to laying fees regulations early 2009. Estimates of fee income for the subsequent three years have yet to be made.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department received in passport, visa and other immigration-related fees from *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign nationals in (i) the first six months and (ii) the second six months of each of the last five years. [227534]

Mr. Woolas: The annual income received from British nationals for passports services in each of the last five financial years is as follows:

£ million

	First six months	*Second six months*	*Total*
2007-08	214.7	161.0	375.7
2006-07	183.0	162.6	345.6
2005-06	145.2	132.5	277.7
2004-05	135.9	106.2	242.1
2003-04	98.6	98.9	197.5

The annual income received by the Home Office for immigration services in each of the last five financial years is as follows:

£ million

	First six months	*Second six months*	*Total*
2007-08	136	164	300
2006-07	99	114	213
2005-06	86	118	204
2004-05	49	66	115
2003-04	33	40	73

The Home Office only assumed full responsibility for visa income from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) from 2008-09 onwards. Full year totals for visa income (excluding notional income for gratis visas) for the last five year—as provided by FCO—are as follows:

	Income (£ million)
2007-08	273.6
2006-07	190.5
2005-06	163.4
2004-05	127.4
2003-04	111.9

UK Border Agency: Marketing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on commissioning a new *(a)* logo and *(b)* brand for the UK Border Agency. [226052]

Mr. Woolas: The development of the new UK Border Agency logo incurred a cost of £12,000 in design fees. A further £17,000 was spent on producing a set of templates and guidelines to cover all applications of the logo. A further £1,200 was spent on printing a summary guidelines booklet to distribute to senior managers within the UK Border Agency.

UK Border Agency: Procurement

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of invoices *(a)* the UK Border Agency and its predecessor organisations and *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service paid (i) within 10 days, (ii) within 30 days and (iii) more than 30 days from the date of receipt, broken down by invoice size. [228674]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The overall position for UK Border Agency and Identity and Passport Service is set out in the following table.

Percentage of invoices paid in time scale

	(a) UK Border Agency[1]	*(b) Identity and Passport Service*[2]
(i) Within 10 days	14.49	35
(ii) Within 30 days	66.98	63
(iii) Over 30 days	18.57	2

[1] Total invoices paid on Adelphi from 1 February 2008 until 30 September 2008 for UKBA cost centres.

[2] IPS processed invoices 2007-08 year.

Identity and Passport Service is unable to provide detail broken down by invoice size. UK Border Agency figures on this basis are given in the following table.

(a) UK Border Agency

			Percentage
* *Invoice size*	*(i) Within 10 days*	*(ii) Within 30 days*	*(iii) Over 30 days*
0-10,000 range	13.19	68.01	18.80
10,000-20,000 range	16.00	64.50	19.51
20,000-50,000 range	18.80	61.68	19.53
50,000-100,000 range	32.15	53.66	14.18
100,000+ range	41.61	48.68	9.71
All	14.49	66.93	18.57

Note:
Of the UK Border Agency invoices paid over 30 days: 25 per cent. of the volume of invoices paid over 30 days relates to seven suppliers. 50 per cent. of the value of invoices paid over 30 days relates to nine invoices, paid to six suppliers.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Passports

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what provisions passengers using domestic flights are required to show a passport. [226477]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not a security requirement for passengers to provide a passport at check-in for domestic flights. Some airlines require under their own conditions of travel the presentation of a passport or other form of photographic ID to prevent ticket fraud.

Aviation: Royal Family

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Canterbury of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1020W, on aviation: the Royal Family, if he will instigate an internal inquiry to establish for what reason the sum in question was spent on a cancelled project; and what steps he plans to take to prevent a similar occurrence. [228003]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Royal and Ministerial Air Travel project was a feasibility study and correct procedures were followed in accordance with procurement best practice. The project was not cancelled and its outcome was delivered to Parliament on 26 March 2008. We see no need for an internal inquiry.

Information about the project can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/royalminairtravelproject

Bridges: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much his Department and its agencies have spent on bridge maintenance since 2000; [227083]

(2) how much his Department and its agencies have spent on local road maintenance since 2000. [227084]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency is responsible for the management of the strategic road network, including bridge maintenance. It has spent the following amounts on bridge renewals:

	£ million
2004-05	157
2005-06	152
2006-07	149
2007-08	170

This relates to renewals of bridges, tunnels, underpasses and other structures. It does not include costs associated with its private finance initiative contracts or routine maintenance of structures.

The amounts shown are for the financial years from 2004-05, prior to this the information is not readily available to this level of detail.

The management of the local road network, including bridge maintenance, in England, is the responsibility of local highway authorities.

Maintenance of bridges owned by other bodies, such as Network Rail, is a matter for the respective bridge owner.

Bus Lanes

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of new bus lanes were created in each of the last 11 years, broken down by region. [227109]

Paul Clark: In the period of the first round of Local Transport Plans, from 2001-02 to 2005-06, local transport authorities invested £30.3 million on 387 busways and bus lanes, covering 220.57 miles. The following table shows the regional breakdown for new busways and bus lanes during this period.

Region	*Number of new busways/bus lanes*	*Miles*
East	23	12.81
East Midlands	22	8.70
North East	56	22.73
North West	100	111.22
South East	100	34.73
South West	46	19.54
West Midlands	60	20.50
Yorkshire and Humberside	47	29.89

This information is not readily available prior to 2001-02, and to reduce the reporting burdens on local authorities, has not been collected since 2005-06.

Bus Services: Homelessness

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the provision of bus passes for people aged over 60 years with no fixed abode; and if he will make a statement. [229455]

Paul Clark: Local authorities are responsible for assessing eligibility for concessionary bus travel. They are required to issue passes to elderly and eligible disabled people whose "sole or principle residence" is within their area. Provided there is suitable evidence, we believe that it is possible for people of no fixed abode to fulfil this criterion.

Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average level of carbon dioxide emissions in grammes-per-kilometre was for *(a)* new and *(b)* all cars in (i) the UK and (ii) each other EU member state in each year since 1997. [226742]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Table 1 shows data on average carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions of new cars sold in the UK from 1997 to 2007.

Table 1: UK average new car CO_2 emissions (grammes of CO_2 per kilometre)

	New car CO_2 emissions (g/km)
1997	189.8
1998	188.4
1999	185.0
2000	181.0
2001	178.0
2002	174.8
2003	172.7
2004	171.4
2005	169.7
2006	167.7
2007	164.7

Data on average new car carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from 1997 to 2000 comes from estimates by The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). From 2001, figures are based on new car emissions data collected by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and supplied to the European Commission for the purposes of monitoring progress towards the EU voluntary commitments on new car CO_2 targets.

Data on average new car carbon dioxide emissions from 2000 to 2006 in most EU member states is available on the European Commission website at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/transport/co2/co2_monitoring.htm.

This data is reproduced in table 2 as follows:

Table 2: Average new car CO_2 emissions (in grammes of CO_2 per kilometre) 2000-06

EU member states	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Austria	168.0	165.6	164.4	163.8	161.9	162.1	163.7
Belgium	166.5	163.7	161.1	158.1	156.5	155.2	153.9
Cyprus	—	—	—	—	173.4	173.0	170.0
Czech Republic	—	—	—	—	154.0	155.3	154.2
Denmark	175.7	172.9	170.0	169.0	165.9	163.7	162.5
Estonia	—	—	—	—	179.0	183.7	182.7
Finland	181.1	178.1	177.2	178.3	179.8	179.5	179.2
France	163.6	159.8	156.8	155.0	153.1	152.3	149.9
Germany	182.2	179.5	177.4	175.9	174.9	173.4	172.5
Greece	180.3	166.5	167.8	168.9	168.8	167.4	166.5
Hungary	—	—	—	—	158.5	156.3	154.6
Ireland	161.3	166.6	164.3	166.7	167.6	166.8	166.3
Italy	155.1	158.3	156.6	152.9	150.0	149.5	149.2
Latvia	—	—	—	—	192.4	187.2	183.1
Lithuania	—	—	—	—	187.5	186.3	163.4
Luxembourg	176.7	177.0	173.8	173.5	169.7	168.6	168.2
Malta	—	—	—	—	148.8	150.5	145.9
Netherlands	174.2	174.0	172.4	173.5	171.0	169.9	166.7
Poland	—	—	—	—	154.1	155.2	155.9
Portugal	169.2	—	154.0	149.9	147.1	144.9	145.0
Slovakia	—	—	—	—	—	157.4	152.0
Slovenia	—	—	—	—	152.7	157.2	155.3
Spain	159.2	156.8	156.4	157.0	155.3	155.3	155.6
Sweden	200.1	200.2	198.2	198.6	197.2	193.8	188.6
UK	185.4	178.0	174.8	172.7	171.4	169.7	167.7
EU average 172.2	169.7	167.2	165.5	163.4	162.4	161.3	
EU average (corrected)[1]	171.0	168.5	166.0	164.3	162.2	161.2	160.2

[1] For the purposes of monitoring progress towards the EU voluntary commitments on new car $C0_2$ emissions, a correction factor of -0.7 per cent. is applied to reported figures to align them with the original basis for the voluntary commitment.

Note:

The EU-10 member states started with data submission in monitoring year 2004. Data for Romania and Bulgaria is not available.

There is no data available on average CO_2 emissions of all cars in the UK since data on CO_2 emissions of new vehicles was not routinely collected before 1997. Therefore, in order to estimate the average CO_2 emissions of all cars, we would need to make assumptions about the CO_2 emissions of cars sold before 1997 and how many of these vehicles are still on the road.

Our estimates suggest that average CO_2 emissions from all cars, in the UK have fallen from around 190g/km in 2000 to around 180g/km in 2006.

For similar reasons to those aforementioned, no data are available on average CO_2 emissions of all cars in other EU member states.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228416]

Mr. Hoon: The total spend for the Department for Transport and its agencies on upgrading its IT in each of the last three years is as follows:

	£000
2005-06	28,351
2006-07	29,718
2007-08	43,861

VOSA is unable to identify separately the IT upgrade costs from the monthly charge that they make to Atos Origin, which manages its IT service.

Due to limitations in GCDA's the Government Car and Despatch Agency accountancy system, it cannot provide the complete breakdown within their costs. The costs do however include hardware and software upgrading costs.

The Driving Standards Agency DSA changed its accounting system in April 2007 and this has resulted in changes to the coding system. This may lead to inconsistencies between the information reported for 2007-08 compared to previous years, however the costs of confirming this is disproportionate.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229168]

Mr. Hoon: The following tables show IT projects taking place within the Department and its agencies.

DFT Central is undertaking the following IT projects:

Project	*Most recent estimate of cost (£)*	*Most recent estimate of completion date*
Shared Services Programme	128,300,000	2012
ETHOS office system upgrade	2,700,000	November 2008
TRANSEC Website project	261,000	May 2009
National database for SCANNER (Surface Condition Assessment for the National Network of Roads) data	150,000	September 2009
Passenger Counts Database	2-3,000,000	June 2010
CRASH (Collision Reporting and Sharing)	[1]—	2010
National Travel Survey database redevelopment	[2]—	2010

[1] Out to tender

[2] Not yet tendered

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is undertaking the following IT projects:

Project	*Most recent estimate of cost (£)*	*Most recent estimate of completion date*
Driver Licence Upgrade Project	15,224,000	November 2008
Drivers Reengineering Project	107,670,000	March 2009
Ten Year Renewal 2	16,397,000	March 2010

Vehicle Operating Standards Agency (VOSA) is undertaking the following IT projects:

Project	*Most recent estimate of cost (£)*	*Most recent estimate of completion date*
Automatic Number Plate Recognition and Weigh In Motion Sensors	5,800,000	March 2009
MOT Enforcement Transformation	3,600,000	March 2009
Transport Office Portal	14,700,000	March 2009
3D Secure and PCI DSS	1,300,000	March 2009
Electronic Test Bookings	16,500,000	March 2009
Customer Information Services Project	1,100,000	March 2009

The Highways Agency (HA) is undertaking the following IT projects:

Project	*Most recent estimate of cost (£)*	*Most recent estimate of completion date (financial year)*
Integrated Asset Management System Programme	39,850,000	2017-18
Business Intelligence Service Delivery	1,900,301	2008-09
Major Projects Business Intelligence Enabling Project	1,077,000	2009-10
Network Performance—BI Project	2,008,509	2009-10
Oracle Enhancement Project	1,230,000	2008-09
Sharing HA Records Electronically	4,978,000	2009-10
HA Pavement Management System	9,945,443	2010-11
HA Traffic Information System	4,669,460	2008-09
Traffic Information 2011+	4,000,000	2011-12
Better Traffic Data—Incremental Improvements	550,000	2009-10
Computer Aided Facilities Management System upgrade	15,000	2008-09
Environmental Information System	1,894,433	2009-10
Evaluate the purchase of AM broadcast licences for Traffic Radio	15,000	2008-09
FOI/EIR web disclosure log	15,000	2008-09
HA Data and Information services Policy Project	14,000	2008-09
Highways Agency Information Points	1,031,000	2010-11
Laptop Encryption	90,000	2008-09
SHARE Legacy File Management	88,000	2009-10
Structures Management Information System	85,400	2009-10
TAME (Traffic Appraisal, Modelling and Economics)	1,650,000	2009-10
Traffic Counter Granularity and Telemetry Upgrade		
Way We Work—RedDot—SHARE Integration Project	82,000	2009-10

Project	Most recent estimate of cost (£)	Most recent estimate of completion date (financial year)
Video Information Highway Policy Implementation	115,000	2009-10

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is undertaking the following IT projects:

Project	Most recent estimate of cost (£)	Most recent estimate of completion date
Driver Certificate of Professional Competence project (includes IT elements)	£36,000,000	September 2009
New Practical Test Booking System—DTCS-T	£3,500,000	December 2008
Enterprise Scanning Solution	£900,000	November 2008
Intranet Project	800,000-1,000,000	March 2009
ISO9001 (includes IT elements)	300,000	October 2008
Central Servers Refresh	266,000	March 2009
Central Backup (Servers)	100,000	December 2008
Area Office IT Refresh	817,000	March 2009
IT Enhancements to Driving Test Centres	863,500	December 2008
Laptop Remote Access	214,400	December 2008

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is undertaking the following IT projects:

Project	Most recent estimate of cost (£)	Most recent estimate of completion date (quarter, year)
Consolidated European Reporting System/Single Vessel Database	5,000,000	Q1 2010
Radio Equipment Replacement Project	5,000,000	Q3 2010
Automatic Identification System Service Provision Project	500,000	Q1 2009

The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is undertaking the following IT project:

Project	Most recent estimate of cost (£)	Most recent estimate of completion date
Booking and Despatch—to implement a new operational system to support the Agency's Government Mail and Government Cars businesses	255,000	December 2008

The Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) is not undertaking any IT projects.

The Department for Transport does not hold centrally collected records on IT projects, which are managed locally. The aforementioned tables therefore show available information on major projects under way within DFT Central and each of its agencies.

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226510]

Mr. Hoon: The Department regularly assesses the cost effectiveness of our advertising through analysis by independent media auditors, quantitative research and progress against real world indicators, such as, in the case of our THINK! road safety campaign, the number of people killed or seriously injured.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229524]

Mr. Hoon: The number and proportion of Department for Transport civil servants in each of the civil service pension schemes is as follows:

	Classic	Classic Plus	Nuvos	Premium	Total
Number of employees	9,677	460	1,142	6,684	1,7963
Proportion of employees	53.9	2.6	36.7	6.4	99.6

The remaining 0.4 per cent. of civil servants have either opted for the partnership scheme (which is a money purchase scheme), or have opted out of a pension provision.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229544]

Mr. Hoon: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than Board Members whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Department for Transport Resource Accounts for financial year 2007-8 can be found in the Library or accessed electronically using the following link

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/ei/secresaccs/resourceaccounts0708.pdf

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1408-9W, on departmental postal services, how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Highways Agency, *(c)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and *(d)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency spent on its mail services in the last year. [229196]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information is provided as follows.

	Spend on mail services (£)
(a) Central Department	[1]145,059.60
(b) Highways Agency	128,427.75
(c) Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	[2]22,900,000.00
(d) Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	[3]—

[1] Comprising London HQ, Air Accidents Investigation Branch, Marine Accident Investigation Branch and Rail Accident Investigation Branch.

[2] Relates to financial year 2007-08. The £22.9 million postal related expenses include £0.7 million in relation to contract carrier and cash carrying services.

[3] The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) do not record this information.

Departmental Staff

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1372W, on departmental staff, how many individuals in the rail network strategy division are examining options for supporting further growth in the longer term. [230065]

Paul Clark: Five members of staff within the rail network strategy division are directly engaged in work relating to options for supporting longer-term growth. The work is part of the Department for Transport's multi-modal approach to strategy development, supported by its wider technical and professional resources.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230951]

Mr. Hoon: I have not undertaken any personal training courses at public expense since my appointment.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Consultants

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency spent on external information technology consultants in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [226754]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Prior to the implementation of the new financial accounting system (SAP) in 2007, as part of the new Shared Services Arrangements, DVLA did not separately identify the different types of consultancy expenditure incurred. To interrogate the data for 2003-2007 would incur disproportionate costs so the following table details all contracts awarded to external information technology consultants and the value of those contracts, between 2004-05 and 2007-08.

	£000
2004-05	138
2005-06	508
2006-07	1,262
2007-08	97

A large proportion of the spend allocated to 2006-07 was for a single project which actually spans several financial years.

Driving: Licensing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people hold a UK driving licence. [227102]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The estimated number of people in Great Britain with a full driving licence in 2007 was 33.8 million.

East Coast Main Line

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the production of Network Rail's capacity analysis of the East Coast Main Line; and when it will be completed. [228573]

Paul Clark: Network Rail's East Coast Main Line capacity assessment report was published on 26 September 2008, and is publicly available on the website operated by the Office of Rail Regulation:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/ecml_NR_caprep.pdf

Fuels: Renewable Energy

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 46WS, on the Post-Gallagher update, what assessment he has made of the effect of slowing down the rate of increase of the renewable transport fuel obligation on *(a)* global food prices, *(b)* food insecurity in developing countries, *(c)* biodiversity loss and *(d)* greenhouse gas emissions arising from indirect land use change. [229150]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Professor Gallagher's review into the indirect effects of biofuel production acknowledged that there are uncertainties about the environmental, social and economic effects. However, he also concluded that there is a risk that the uncontrolled expansion and use of biofuels could lead to unsustainable changes in land use, such as the destruction of rainforest to make way for the production of crops. That might, in turn, increase greenhouse gas emissions, as well as contributing to higher food prices and shortages.

Professor Gallagher recommended that the Government amend but not abandon their biofuels policy. The Government agree with this recommendation and are currently consulting on a proposal to slow down the rate of increase of the RTFO.

The Renewable Fuels Agency is also required to include an assessment of the wider effects of biofuel production in its annual report to Parliament. This will enable the Government to continue to gather evidence on the impacts of biofuel use to help ensure that targets are set at appropriate levels.

Fuels: Rural Areas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with ministerial colleagues at HM Treasury a fuel tax derogation for rural areas. [228382]

Paul Clark: Decisions on fuel duty, as with all decisions on taxation, are matters for HM Treasury. Treasury Ministers routinely consult with ministerial colleagues on all relevant matters as part of the pre-Budget report and Budget processes.

Heathrow Airport

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on whether a third runway should be built at Heathrow Airport. [228279]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the written statement made by the former Secretary of State for Transport on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 74-76WS.

Lorries: Fuels

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider requiring foreign hauliers entering the UK to have the same level of fuel when leaving the UK as when entering. [228381]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Consideration was given to fuel restrictions as part of Haulage Industry Task Group discussions. It is likely that any restriction would contravene European single market rules.

Lorries: Working Hours

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider bringing forward proposals to limit the number of hours per week that foreign hauliers may spend on UK roads. [228379]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The current EU drivers' hours rules, which apply to drivers of large goods vehicles from all EU member states, restrict daily, weekly and fortnightly driving time, and require the taking of mandatory breaks and rests periods.

In addition in June, at the EU Transport Council, political agreement was reached on a Commission Proposal which would limit the number of cabotage operations performed by EU hauliers to three in seven days if preceded by a loaded international journey.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of new *(a)* motorway and *(b)* motorway widening were completed in each of the last 10 years. [227087]

Paul Clark: The following table shows *(a)* the number of miles of new motorway and *(b)* the number of miles of motorway widened in each year since 1998.

	(a) New motorway	*(b) Motorway widened*
1998	0.0	22.7
1999	9.3	18.5
2000	0.0	9.3
2001	0.0	0.0
2002	0.0	0.0
2003	0.0	6.6
2004	0.0	0.0
2005	0.0	13.4
2006	10.6	19.4
2007	0.0	1.2
Total	19.9	91.2

Parking: Disabled

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will encourage local authorities to allow blue badge holders to park free of charge in *(a)* residents' parking bays and *(b)* parking bays; and if he will make a statement. [229511]

Paul Clark: The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Exemptions for Disabled Persons) (England) Regulations 2000 already require local authorities to exempt holders of a disabled person's badge from any charges that apply to other classes of traffic for the use of on-street parking spaces.

Public Transport: Visually Impaired

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of visually impaired people injured whilst using public transport in the last 10 years. [229462]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* blind and *(b)* partially sighted people had a free bus pass (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [229510]

Paul Clark: Local authorities are responsible for issuing concessionary bus passes and the Department for Transport does not hold detailed information about the breakdown of different types of pass holder.

From 1 April 2008 local authorities outside London have been required to issue all concessionary bus passes as ITSO smartcards. To date around 7.2 million have been issued. Approximately 900,000 London Freedom Passes have been re-stickered for national use. From 2010 London will be required to issue their passes as ITSO smartcards.

Rail Network: Overcrowding

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to reduce overcrowding on the rail network; and if he will make a statement. [228410]

Paul Clark: The Government's plans to increase capacity are set out in the rail White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" published on 24 July 2007 and available on the Department for Transport's website

www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/whitepapercm7176/.

On top of the record sums already committed until 2009, the Government will invest a further £10 billion in delivering enhancements alone over the following five years. The Government plans the introduction of 1,300 new and additional rail vehicles onto the rail network in the period up to 2014. 423 new vehicles have already been ordered.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to reduce overcrowding on the rail network; and if he will make a statement. [229347]

Paul Clark: The Government's plan to increase capacity are set out in the rail White Paper "Delivering a sustainable railway" published on 24 July 2007 and available on the Department for Transport's website:

www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/whitepapercm7176/

On top of the record sums, already committed until 2009, the Government will invest a further £10 billion in delivering enhancements, alone over the following five years. The Government plan the introduction of 1,300 new and additional rail vehicles onto the rail network in the period up to 2014. 423 new vehicles have already been ordered.

Railway Network: Electrification

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to extend the electrification of the rail network west of London. [229443]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has been working closely with the rail industry to examine the case for extending the electrified network.

Railways: Concessions

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce a national discount railcard linked to the proposed standardisation of rail ticket tariffs; and if he will make a statement. [227773]

Paul Clark: There are a number of discount schemes already offered on rail: the Young Person's, Senior, Family and Disabled railcards and in the South East, the Network Card. There are also group travel discounts available for some journeys. There are no plans to examine further schemes at this stage.

River Mersey: Bridges

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the combined number of vehicle journeys per year likely to be made across the new Mersey Gateway Bridge and the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge if *(a)* a toll of £1.40 is payable and *(b)* no toll is payable; and if he will make a statement; [228000]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect that a toll of £1.40 on the new Mersey Gateway Bridge and the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge will have on traffic congestion in Warrington town centre; [228001]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects on the local economy of a toll on the new Mersey Gateway Bridge and the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge. [228002]

Paul Clark: Given the cost of the Mersey Gateway bridge in relation to the North West's regional funding allocation, it is not realistic to expect that it could be funded without income from tolls.

For assessment purposes, traffic modelling was based on annual average weekday traffic (AAWT) which is fully compliant with recommended appraisal procedures. Hence, forecasts of annual journeys (including weekends) are not available. The proposed traffic volumes on the combined crossings of Silver Jubilee bridge and the new Mersey Gateway bridge were estimated as follows:

	Annual average weekday traffic	
	£1.40 toll (2008 prices)	*No toll*
Opening year	74,000	128,000
Opening year + 15	95,000	146,000

The Department has not made an assessment of the effect that tolls placed on the new Mersey Gateway bridge and Silver Jubilee bridge will have on traffic congestion in Warrington town centre. Halton borough council forecast the traffic diversion to be around 1 per cent. at peak times and 4 per cent. in daily traffic terms.

The Mersey Gateway bridge is being promoted by Halton primarily to relieve the existing Silver Jubilee bridge (SJB) which experiences high levels of congestion. The scheme has strong backing from the Merseyside sub-region, as it is seen as a catalyst for unlocking significant development opportunities at key development sites including improved access to Liverpool John Lennon airport. In the region's view, failure to provide the additional capacity will impede the regeneration of the area and the development of key sites served by the bridge and surrounding network including Widnes waterfront, Ditton Freight terminal and Daresbury science and business park.

Since Halton have applied to my Department for orders under the Transport and Works Act and the Highways Act to authorise the construction of the new bridge and related matters, I cannot express a view on the merits of the scheme in order not to prejudice the Secretary of State's eventual decisions. A public inquiry is to be held next year, although a date has yet to be fixed.

Roads

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent from the public purse per head on roads in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in 2007-08. [227987]

Paul Clark: The expenditure on roads in England in 2006-07 amounted to approximately £7 billion, including new build, maintenance and road lighting. This is equivalent to about £137 per head of population.

Data are not available for 2007-08. Rural and urban breakdowns of the data are not available.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many drivers under the age of 25 years were involved in road collisions in each region of England and Wales in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* 2008 to date; [227135]

(2) how many road collisions involved drivers under the age of 25 in each region of England and Wales in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* 2008 to date; [227136]

(3) how many people were *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* injured as a result of traffic collisions involving drivers under the age of 25 years in each region of England and Wales in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) 2008 to date. [227139]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of drivers or riders under the age of 25 years old involved in reported personal injury road accidents in each Government Office region in England and Wales in 1998 to 2007 are given in the following table.

Number of drivers/riders under 25 years old

Government Office region	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	3,355	2,897	2,924	2,778	2,858	3,033	2,968	2,901	2,884	2,750
North West	12,525	11,769	11,392	10,927	10,652	10,422	10,574	10,190	9,237	8,622
Yorkshire and the Humber	8,444	8,033	7,794	7,572	7,820	7,545	7,063	6,690	6,681	6,587
East Midlands	6,642	6,187	6,166	5,981	6,011	6,057	5,865	6,032	5,652	5,707
West Midlands	8,394	8,804	8,061	7,658	7,619	7,360	7,178	7,394	7,129	7,190
East of England	9,557	8,784	8,891	8,695	8,416	8,511	8,643	8,402	7,904	7,810
South East	13,454	12,879	12,093	11,848	11,803	11,570	11,745	11,393	11,602	11,187
London	11,185	10,833	10,377	9,913	9,299	8,467	7,599	6,816	6,044	5,745
South West	7,496	7,442	7,223	7,524	7,646	7,373	7,602	7,887	7,417	7,127
England	81,052	77,628	74,921	72,896	72,124	70,338	69,237	67,705	64,550	62,725
Wales	4,112	3,967	3,664	3,745	3,970	4,007	4,189	3,919	3,896	3,795
England and Wales	85,164	81,595	78,585	76,641	76,094	74,345	73,426	71,624	68,446	66,520

The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver or rider under the age of 25 years old in each Government Office region in England and Wales in 1998 to 2007 are given in the following table.

Number of accidents

Government Office Region	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	3,038	2,620	2,660	2,552	2,633	2,741	2,704	2,631	2,607	2,481
North West	11,194	10,556	10,349	9,906	9,666	9,413	9,447	9,134	8,316	7,719
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,619	7,270	7,093	6,879	7,105	6,828	6,441	6,054	6,040	5,974
East Midlands	6,060	5,621	5,618	5,465	5,477	5,507	5,329	5,461	5,164	5,176
West Midlands	7,565	7,839	7,341	7,008	6,952	6,710	6,534	6,678	6,458	6,487
East of England	8,578	7,959	8,057	7,850	7,668	7,684	7,789	7,583	7,111	6,972
South East	12,144	11,610	11,039	10,788	10,673	10,476	10,649	10,315	10,462	10,106
London	10,371	10,053	9,656	9,231	8,647	7,859	7,079	6,337	5,623	5,338
South West	6,766	6,753	6,543	6,822	6,902	6,650	6,851	7,066	6,622	6,351
England	73,335	70,281	68,356	66,501	65,723	63,868	62,823	61,259	58,403	56,604
Wales	3,716	3,590	3,309	3,385	3,566	3,599	3,769	3,507	3,422	3,356
England and Wales	77,051	73,871	71,665	69,886	69,289	67,467	66,592	64,766	61,825	59,960

The numbers of people *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* slightly injured resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver or rider under the age of 25 years old in each Government Office region in England and Wales in 1998 to 2007 are given in the following table.

Number of casualties

Government Office Region	*Severity*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	Killed	36	30	25	34	40	50	59	51	45	31
	Serious	400	339	373	354	343	365	349	335	429	346

Government Office Region	Severity	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		Number of casualties									
	Slight	4,076	3,493	3,537	3,436	3,497	3,614	3,606	3,492	3,423	3,373
North West	Killed	114	119	135	120	122	131	131	137	131	92
	Serious	1,509	1,381	1,352	1,326	1,371	1,352	1,420	1,433	1,286	1,172
	Slight	15,363	14,638	14,214	13,491	13,169	12,519	12,583	12,330	11,393	10,426
Yorkshire and the Humber	Killed	94	89	94	118	131	128	111	125	118	102
	Serious	1,262	1,182	1,081	1,214	1,286	1,190	1,178	1,098	1,119	1,088
	Slight	10,183	9,555	9,447	9,151	9,418	9,000	8,491	8,032	8,234	8,072
East Midlands	Killed	128	116	97	90	110	120	114	98	117	109
	Serious	1,227	1,122	1,055	1,027	1,102	1,047	1,009	972	848	877
	Slight	7,680	7,123	7,121	6,901	6,972	6,964	6,698	6,890	6,585	6,499
West Midlands	Killed	103	98	99	107	85	102	106	84	115	106
	Serious	1,481	1,239	1,189	1,101	1,062	951	941	926	867	861
	Slight	9,313	9,881	9,440	9,003	8,862	8,491	8,239	8,704	8,379	8,481
East of England	Killed	122	123	138	137	136	130	128	118	128	121
	Serious	1,708	1,545	1,531	1,489	1,357	1,439	1,349	1,306	1,150	1,159
	Slight	10,590	9,795	10,078	9,850	9,638	9,572	9,714	9,519	9,005	8,645
South East	Killed	168	170	176	149	154	156	161	181	153	160
	Serious	1,932	1,937	1,906	1,801	1,808	1,610	1,623	1,445	1,514	1,563
	Slight	15,211	14,555	13,568	13,644	13,240	12,819	13,017	12,876	13,267	12,619
London	Killed	61	78	81	80	77	73	64	58	63	61
	Serious	1,870	1,539	1,532	1,531	1,354	1,288	988	857	905	833
	Slight	11,219	11,113	10,924	10,401	9,851	8,802	7,974	7,118	6,368	6,253
South West	Killed	101	91	88	103	114	85	113	115	113	100
	Serious	994	985	1,028	909	1,055	1,018	900	905	880	882
	Slight	8,400	8,306	8,085	8,620	8,440	8,130	8,431	8,839	8,311	7,877
England	Killed	927	914	933	938	969	975	987	967	983	882
	Serious	12,392	11,269	11,047	10,752	10,738	10,260	9,757	9,277	8,998	8,781
	Slight	92,035	88,459	86,414	84,497	83,087	79,911	78,753	77,800	74,965	72,245
Wales	Killed	66	64	53	75	56	58	88	76	63	58
	Serious	539	634	555	523	576	576	515	486	490	531
	Slight	5,034	4,668	4,565	4,581	4,896	4,909	5,141	4,937	4,854	4,745
England and Wales	Killed	993	978	986	1,013	1,025	1,033	1,075	1,043	1,046	940
	Serious	12,931	11,903	11,602	11,275	11,314	10,836	10,272	9,763	9,488	9,312
	Slight	97,069	93,127	90,979	89,078	87,983	84,820	83,894	82,737	79,819	76,990

2008 data will be published in June 2009.

Roads: Southend

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions he has had with Southend-on-Sea borough council on the proposed highway improvement at Priory Crescent and the A127 junction; [224662]

(2) what plans he has to meet *(a)* hon. and right hon. Members, *(b)* Southend Borough Council members and *(c)* Southend Borough Council officers in relation to the proposed highway improvement at Priory Crescent and the A127 junction. [224663]

Paul Clark: At present the Department for Transport's regional and local major schemes team are working closely with officers of Southend-on-Sea borough council.

the scheme promoters, to prepare a revised major scheme business case which is due to be submitted shortly in order to reduce overspend on the original scheme. Following submission of this case meetings with appropriate hon. and right hon. Members, Southend borough council members and officers will be convened.

Transport: Skilled Workers

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the adequacy of supply of engineering and other skills required to implement his Department's transport strategy; and if he will make a statement. [230064]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport, and its agencies, work closely with professional and trade bodies to understand what engineering and technical support capacity will be required by transport in the future. We acknowledge there has been, and remains, a shortage of relevant engineering and technical skills within the UK. However, these constraints are now less critical than in the past given the greater international mobility of labour and the shorter period needed to train people in these skills.

We are seeking to address the remaining skills gaps in a number of ways.

For example, the Highways Agency publishes a forward look of work to enable its suppliers to allocate and manage resources effectively. It works closely with key suppliers, professional and trade bodies to identify and address potential skills and other constraints. The Highways Agency also supports apprenticeship schemes in the construction sector through the national roads programme.

As part of our rail technical strategy we will be outlining the skills the railways will need in the longer term to deliver a more cost effective, sustainable and higher capacity railway.

And for Crossrail, where at the peak of construction in 2013-15 some 14,000 jobs, involving over 40 trades and professions, will be needed, we are working with industry bodies to establish a Tunnelling Academy offering training and recognised qualifications.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biofuels

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government have spent on research on the potential for biofuel use overseas in the last 12 months. [224285]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

UK Government policy on biofuels has always been based on making their production and use sustainable. A number of studies on biofuel sustainability have considered the supply and demand of biofuels anticipated globally. These include the Gallagher Review commissioned by the Renewable Fuels Agency—the Gallagher Review and the studies underpinning it are available via the Renewable Fuels Agency's website

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/

and a study on the environmental sustainability of international biofuels production commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), available on DEFRA's website at www.defra.gov.uk. These studies cost approximately £300,000.

Research has also been commissioned to consider key social, economic and ecological consequences of the development of bioenergy and its impacts on the rural poor in developing countries. These include a study commissioned by the Department for International Development on the impact of biofuels on agriculture and poverty reduction in developing countries, costing approximately £8,000, and available on the Overseas Development Institute website; and, under the auspices of the Brazil: UK: Southern Africa Taskforce on Biofuels, the Brazil:UK:Africa Partnership on Bioethanol Scoping study, which was commissioned by the Office for Science and Innovation (part of the former Department of Trade and Industry). The study looked into the technical potential for sugar cane for bioethanol in Africa, cost approximately £116,000 and is available on the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website.

The Government have recently committed a further £170,000 to a five year transnational consortia research programme, "Bioenergy - an opportunity or threat to the rural poor" as part of the ERA-ARD (European Research Area for Agricultural Research and Development net).

Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 770-74W, if he will place in the Library a copy of the reports on *(a)* distributional impacts of personal carbon trading, *(b)* personal carbon trading: public acceptability, *(c)* public understanding of sustainable energy use in the home and *(d)* waste infrastructure research. [222773]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

I am arranging for copies of the reports on Distributional Personal Carbon Trading, Personal Carbon Trading: Public Acceptability, and Public Understanding of Sustainable Energy Use in the Home to be placed in the Library of the House. I have been informed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that the navigator waste infrastructure research study has not yet been completed.

Carbon Emissions: EU Law

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage contribution to a reduction in UK carbon emissions on 1990 levels, as defined by the Climate Change Bill, are expected to be made by full compliance with the EU Renewables Directive by 2020. [224707]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Potential measures set out in the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) consultation, to achieve 15 per cent. energy from renewable sources by 2020, are estimated to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in 2020 by 20 to 25 $MtCO_2$ outside the EU emissions trading scheme (transport and smaller scale heat), and to contribute 50 to 55 $MtCO_2$ of savings within the EU emissions trading scheme cap (electricity and larger scale heat). The estimated savings outside, and additional to, the EU ETS cap represent around 10 to 15 per cent. of the reduction in carbon emissions required to achieve the Climate Change Bill's target of at least a 26 per cent. reduction in carbon emissions on 1990 levels for the five-year budgetary period including the year 2020, which implies a reduction in carbon emissions of at least 154 $MtCO_2$ on 1990 levels.

Inland Waterways: Property

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the further review of the Environment Agency's plans for lock-keepers' cottages along the Thames will be published; whether the review has included a re-examination of the business case for disposal of the cottages; and if he will make a statement. [229427]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The Environment Agency intends to announce proposals for lock houses on the River Thames in the new year, after further negotiations have been held with the unions about all the terms and conditions for lock staff. The review will include a re-examination of the business case and will consider the issues raised by MPs, members of the public and staff.

River Lymington: Ferries

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 938W, on River Lymington: ferries, what the role of the Government Office for the South East will be in resolving the situation regarding Wightlink's application for shore works in the Lymington River. [229585]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* It is part of Government Office's role to connect Whitehall to key regional players and join up the agencies, non-departmental public bodies and regulators which operate regionally. In this instance, Government Office for the South-East is working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, other Government Departments and the many regulators involved in this project to promote progress and a joined up response to the issue.

JUSTICE

Anti-corruption Champion

11. **Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on his role as anti-corruption champion. [230380]

Mr. Straw: The Government take very seriously their responsibility to tackle international and domestic corruption and as the anti-corruption champion, I will be taking forward the reform of the law on bribery and developing a comprehensive UK strategy for tackling foreign bribery, including a full response to the recent OECD report.

The UK is recognised as one of the least corrupt countries in the world—16th in the world and 3rd of G8 countries and we are committed to tackling foreign bribery by UK firms. We have had the first conviction for foreign bribery in international transactions this summer and over 20 foreign bribery investigations.

We have already announced in May this year in the draft legislative programme that we intend to introduce a draft Bribery Bill in the next Session. This will be informed by the Law Commission report on bribery, due next month.

Courts System: Pay Rates

12. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the system of regional pay within the courts system; and if he will make a statement. [230381]

Mr. Malik: The planned review of the pay and grading arrangements introduced last year for the Ministry of Justice is now under way. The review will cover all aspects of the new pay structure, including local pay. However, I can confirm that over the year since it was introduced, the Ministry has not experienced any difficulties in recruitment, retention or other operating issues arising from local pay.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

13. **Mr. Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the performance of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority against its objectives. [230382]

Maria Eagle: Rigorous performance assessment systems are in place. Performance is monitored and managed against CICA's agreed objectives as set out in the 2008-09 Business Plan, on a monthly basis by the sponsor unit. Assessment to date shows that CICA's unit cost per case has reduced, the time for registering an application has reduced, the cycle time to reach a first decision has reduced, and the size of the live case load has reduced and is the lowest it has been in 20 years.

16. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the performance of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority against its objectives. [230385]

Mr. Straw: Rigorous performance assessment systems are in place. Performance is monitored and managed against CICA's agreed objectives as set out in the 2008-09 Business Plan, on a monthly basis by the sponsor unit. Assessment to date shows that CICA's unit cost per case has reduced, the time for registering an application has reduced, the cycle time to reach a first decision has reduced, and the size of the live case-load has reduced and is the lowest it has been in 20 years.

Citizenship

14. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on how to expand initiatives on, and awareness of, citizenship among people between the ages of 16 and 30. [230383]

Mr. Wills: Earlier this year, the Government established an independent Youth Citizenship Commission, to examine what citizenship means to young people, and exploring ways to encourage them to be active citizens. It will report to the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the

Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice in spring 2009.

Courts Service

15. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he next expects to meet senior members of the judiciary to discuss the budget for HM Courts Service. [230384]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor meets with the senior judiciary on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues, including the budget or Her Majesty's Courts Service.

19. **Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* court time expended and *(b)* cost to the Courts Service of cases of television licence fee evasion. [230388]

Bridget Prentice: In 2006, we published estimates regarding television licence evasion cases in 'Delivering Simple, Speedy, Summary Justice' showing that in 2005 there were 173,000 cases taking approximately 5,800 hours of court time.

20. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he next expects to meet senior members of the judiciary to discuss the budget for HM Courts Service; and if he will make a statement. [230389]

Mr. Straw: We expect the proposed allocation of funds to Her Majesty's Courts Service for 2009-10 to become known in early November. We expect to be consulting with the judiciary under the terms of the Framework Agreement during mid/late November. We expect the allocation to Her Majesty's Courts Service to be finalised by the Ministry of Justice after these discussions have concluded.

Courts Service: Northamptonshire

17. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on staffing levels in the Northamptonshire courts service and the implications of such levels for the effectiveness of judicial arrangements. [230386]

Mr. Straw: Formal representations have been received from the hon. Member for Daventry (Mr. Boswell) and my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope) in relation to communications from the Northamptonshire Magistrates' Bench chairmen voicing concerns about the impact on the delivery of the magistrates' courts service as a result of delays in recruitment of staff.

Prison Officers: Assaults

18. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of attacks on prison officers by inmates. [230387]

Mr. Straw: Ministers and the Prison Service are committed to ensuring that violence in prisons is not tolerated in any form. Since 2004 every public sector prison has had in place a local violence reduction strategy. From mid 2007 this policy has included the contracted out prisons. The National Offender Management Service and the Prison Officers' Association are jointly committed to 'zero tolerance' on assaults on staff.

Political Party Funding

21. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to regulate political party funding via British subsidiaries of foreign-owned companies. [230390]

Mr. Wills: In order to donate to UK political parties, companies must be registered and carry on business in the UK. I acknowledge the concerns which have been expressed about the scope for evasion of the ban on foreign donations contained in these provisions, and I would be very happy to discuss how they might be improved to better deliver their underlying purpose. I suggest that this may be most usefully done in the context of debates on the Political Parties and Elections Bill which will be considered by Public Bill Committee in November.

Titan Prisons

22. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the Government's plans to build titan prisons. [230391]

Mr. Straw: The Government are currently analysing the responses to their recent consultation exercise and plan to publish their response later this year.

Radicalisation: Prisons

23. **Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to combat radicalisation in prisons. [230392]

Mr. Hanson: The Government's counter-terrorism strategy identifies prisons as one of a number of arenas where extremists may seek to radicalise others. Prisons manage this risk as part of the National Offender Management Service's work to protect the public and reduce re-offending. The National Offender Management Service works closely with the Home Office and other experts to develop our counter-radicalisation efforts.

Young Offender Institutions

24. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the capacity of young offender institutions in England and Wales. [230393]

Mr. Hanson: We keep the capacity of the prison estate, including young offender institutions, under review. We are increasing prison capacity to meet current population pressures and a projected rise in the prison population by building around 1,500 additional places for the young offender estate.

Prisons: Telephones

25. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will conduct a review of the cost to prisoners of telephone calls from prisons. [230394]

Mr. Malik: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) met British Telecom on 17 October to begin negotiations on the cost of prisoner calls following the recommendation made by Ofcom in their investigation into the National Consumer Council super-complaint. NOMS is seeking a reduction in the cost of domestic landline and mobile calls for prisoners, although the provider is not contractually obliged to do so. NOMS will keep Ofcom informed of developments. Planning for the re-tendering project is also under way and we hope that call costs can be reduced under a new contract from April 2011.

Commonhold

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish a consultation document on commonhold tenure; and if he will make a statement. [230121]

Bridget Prentice: We are currently reviewing our plans for the publication of a consultation document on commonhold in the light of other priorities. Therefore, no date has been set for publication. I will make a statement about the publication date when a decision has been made.

Departmental Consultants

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on external IT consultants in the last 12 months. [228913]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice uses external consultants to provide expert professional advice on specific time limited tasks, usually in connection with projects, and only where the knowledge and advice they bring cannot be provided in-house.

Our records show expenditure on external IT consultants for the financial year 2007-08 was £4.5 million.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government have taken to support victims of domestic violence during the judicial process. [230812]

Bridget Prentice: Since 1997 the Government have been working to ensure that all sections of domestic violence law support and protect all victims of domestic abuse. In 2004 the Government passed the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act which was the biggest overhaul of domestic violence law for 30 years.

Aside from legislation, on a national level in criminal courts this has included practical system changes promoting a co-ordinated community response to domestic violence through a set of initiatives in and around the criminal justice agencies which include:

establishing 104 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC) with a commitment to increase this to 128 courts by 2011. These innovative courts represent both a partnership and a problem solving approach to domestic violence where the police, prosecutors, magistrates, court staff, the probation service and specialist support services work together to identify, track and risk assess cases, support victims of domestic violence and share information better so that more offenders are brought to justice;

setting up Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences by the agencies which focus on issues of safety, children, housing and health; and

funding independent domestic violence advisers, via the Third Sector, who support victims through the court process.

In both criminal and family courts which are not part of the SDVC network, special measures are available such as screening vulnerable witnesses or victims from the view of the accused, giving evidence by video link, separate exits and entrances to the court, separate waiting rooms, separate toilets and advance viewing of the court.

There are other ways that victims are supported, for example, the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 provides central funding to appoint a lawyer to protect victims and witnesses of specific offences against cross-examination by a defendant in person.

I would be happy to write to you in more detail on the steps the Government have taken.

Driving Offences: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* fined for speeding in Hampshire in each of the last five years. [229564]

Maria Eagle: Available information on speed limit offences within the Hampshire police force area from 2002 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in the following table. 2007 data should be available end of November 2008.

The force does not issue written warnings (cautions) for summary motoring offences.

Number of magistrates courts imposed fines[1] [2] and fixed penalty notices issued[3] for speed limit offences[4], within Hampshire police force area, 2002 to 2006

		Number of offences
	Court imposed fines[1] [2]	*Fixed penalty notices issued[3]*
2002	4,949	31,867
2003	5,270	45,324
2004	4,237	52,587
2005	5,050	58,750
2006	4,571	49,404

[1] May include cases where fixed penalty was issued and not paid and consequently referred to court.

[2] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.

[3] Covers tickets paid where there is no further action.

[4] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 and 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926: byelaws made thereunder.

Notes:

1. Force does not issue written warnings for summary motoring offences.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Written warning may also be under reported.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Electoral Register: Fraud

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures are in place to prevent second home owners voting in more than one constituency at general elections. [229957]

Mr. Wills: It is an offence for a person to vote twice in a general election. Any offence, if successfully prosecuted, could result in a fine of up to £5,000. At a general election the presiding officer at a polling station may, if necessary, ask any elector if they have already voted at the election, and may withhold a ballot paper from an elector if they do not answer the question satisfactorily.

If an elector votes in person in a polling station the electoral register is marked to record the issue of the ballot paper to them, and similarly a list is maintained of returned postal votes. In the event of an election petition or police investigation following a general election, these records may bring to light any voting irregularities at the election.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on meeting the needs of convicted prisoners with psychiatric disorders. [229469]

Mr. Hanson: Responsibility to secure appropriate mental health treatment and care within the prison estate transferred fully to primary care trusts with commissioning responsibility in the NHS in 2006. Investment increased from £118 million in 2002-03 to nearly £200 million in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Mental health treatment and care is delivered by the NHS within prisons. By 2005-06 nearly £20 million was being invested recurrently in mental health in-reach. There are now 102 mental health in-reach teams and all prisons have access to them: a total of 360 extra staff altogether. These teams apply NHS standards to the care and management of patients. This includes where relevant management under the care programme approach, individual support and treatment plans and access to day services and psychological therapies. For those individuals who are assessed to be too ill to treat in prison arid meet the criteria for detention under section of the Mental Health Act are transferred to hospital for treatment.

Last year, 28 per cent. more prisoners, with mental illness too severe for prison, were transferred to hospital than in 2002—up to 926 from 723. There has also been a significant decrease in the number of people waiting for a transfer. At the end of December 2007 there were 40 people waiting for a bed for more than 12 weeks. At the end of March 2008 there were only 24.

In relation to the small number of people with a severe personality disorder who are dangerous, the Department of Health and Ministry of Justice is investing in special secure services. The programme has a capacity of over 300 places in two high security prisons (Frankland and Whitemoor); a female prison (Low Newton in Durham) and two high security hospitals (Broadmoor and Rampton). They provide essential clinical services for dangerous offenders whose offending is linked to severe personality disorder.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the facilities available to convicted prisoners with severe psychiatric disorders; and if he will make a statement. [229470]

Mr. Hanson: We continue to investigate the issues and have commissioned Lord Bradley to review a wide range of services for offenders with mental health issues. The Government welcomed the report prepared last year by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons on the mental health of prisoners and the recommendations made therein for improving the quality of mental health treatment and care. There continues to be investment in prison health services to meet the needs of prisoners with mental health problems. All prisoners receive a health assessment when received into prison, prisons now have access to mental health in reach teams, this enables prisoners with mental health problems to be treated and managed in a variety of locations within prisons, reflecting the care and treatment that would be available in community settings. Day services are available in some establishments to support individuals with mental health problems.

Additional funding for drug services is being made available to meet the needs of prisoners with dual diagnosis. For those individuals who are too ill to be managed in a custodial setting and whose mental health needs have been assessed as meeting the criteria for detention under the Mental Health Act, are transferred to hospital for treatment and only return to prison when well enough. The Department of Health in partnership with the MoJ will publish its strategy 'Improving Health Supporting Justice' next year incorporating our views on the quality and future direction of health care in prisons fallowing a public consultation. The strategy will also take account of the recommendations that Lord Bradley will make on the potential to divert people with mental health problems and/or learning difficulties away from prison. This builds on the work we already do to divert over 500 mentally disordered offenders to hospital every year, avoiding prison altogether, and to transfer over 800 people a year from prison if they need specialist treatment in hospital.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Inspector of Prisons on the provision of treatment in prisons for prisoners with severe psychiatric disorders; and if he will make a statement. [229471]

Mr. Hanson: I meet with the Chief Inspector on a regular basis and discuss a variety of issues. The Government welcomed the HM Inspector of Prisons thematic review on the mental health of prisoners published in 2007 and the recommendations made therein for improving the quality of mental health treatment and care. We also welcome the Chief Inspector's most recent report on the indeterminate sentence for public protection. The Department of Health in partnership with the Ministry of Justice will publish its strategy Improving Health Supporting Justice' next year incorporating our views on the quality and future direction of health care in prisons following a public consultation. This will also take account of the recommendations that Lord Bradley will make on the potential to divert people with mental health problems and/or learning disabilities away from prison.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228555]

Mr. Malik: Under the Disability Equality Duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Department and its public sector bodies listed in the associated Regulations are required to publish and implement disability equality schemes. These are plans setting out how they will carry out the Disability Equality Duty, monitor, and report on progress. In particular this includes their arrangements for gathering information on the effect of their policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of their disabled employees, including those with mental health conditions, and making use of that information.

The Department's disability equality scheme sets out various arrangements and procedures.

In order to ensure that the disability equality issues are enshrined in all departmental legislation, policy and service delivery, all new policies and functions have to be equality impact assessed for their impact on disabled people.

The Department gathers and uses information on the effect of its policies and practices on disabled people in a number of ways, including involving disabled people in focus groups, through staff surveys and by identifying relevant research or data collected by other Government Departments and organisations.

The Department aims to go beyond compliance and there is a commitment to ensuring that disabled staff have confidence and trust in the organisation and that they are able to participate fully in staff development opportunities. The Department is an authorised user of the two ticks scheme, allowing disabled candidates who meet the minimum requirements of a role, to be guaranteed an interview, for both internally and externally advertised positions.

The Department has a disability network that provides confidential advice and support to staff, and a Workplace Support Services helpline and advisers to signpost staff to sources of help, including disability advice, information or assistance within the Department or to outside service providers and voluntary organisations.

There is also guidance on making reasonable adjustments to meet the particular requirements identified by an individual who has declared a disability (though disability declaration is voluntary), and a range of guidance on specific disabilities.

The public sector bodies sponsored by my Department that are subject to these requirements are responsible for publishing and implementing their own disability equality schemes.

In line with the Disability Equality Duty, a report is published every three years to show: progress towards disability equality in my policy sector; and proposals for co-ordination of future work by relevant public authorities within my policy sector. These reports will show what impact, if any, policies have had on the recruitment and retention of disabled people including those with mental health condition, and set out proposals to address any gaps identified when establishing the progress made across the policy sector. The first report must be published by December 2008.

Offenders: Employment

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of released prisoners found *(a)* full-time employment and *(b)* placements in work-based training programmes within six months of completing their sentence in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [229289]

Mr. Hanson: The total number of prisoners who have education, training or employment (ETE) secured upon release are shown in table 1 for each of the last five years.

Further data, recording those persons entering and sustaining employment/training four weeks following commencement, for both offenders released on licence and those serving community orders is shown in table 2. It is not possible to separately identify those that had a custodial sentence without incurring disproportionate cost.

There is no recorded data relating to employment or training placements sustained after four weeks.

Table 1: The total number of prisoners who have education, training or employment (ETE) secured on release for each of the last five years

	Employment on discharge	Education and training on discharge	KPI outturn employment	KPI outturn employment	KPI outturn training and education
2003-04	—	—	35,530	—	—
2004-05	—	—	41,146	—	—
2005-06	—	—	42,879	—	—
2006-07	—	—	40,573	—	—
2007-08	24,340	9,622	—	27.0	10.7

Notes:

1. KPI outturn for 2003-04 based on an end year resettlement survey.
2. Outcomes up to and including 2006-07 include those who attended Freshstart appointments at Jobcentre Plus, whereby prisoners who do not have a job or training place to go to on release are linked into employment, training and benefits advice and support immediately after release. Prisoners attending counted as half a point. Data showing have already been calculated as half a point.
3. Between 2003-04 and 2006-07 there was one measure for number of prisoners released into employment, training and education.
4. For 2007-08, the resettlement measure is expressed separately for employment, training and education. There are separate targets for the proportion of prisoners who have employment, and the proportion who have training and education upon release. Job Centre Plus data no longer included in the KPI from 2007-08.

Table 2: Data, recording those persons entering and sustaining employment/training four weeks following commencement, for both offenders released on licence and those serving community orders

	2006-07	2007-08
Job entries		
All persons supervised by Probation Service England and Wales total	19,926	22,006
Employment sustained for four weeks		
All persons supervised by Probation Service England and Wales total	14,248	16,823

Notes:
1. Data were not recorded prior to 2006-07.
2. Latest available full year data.

Polling Stations: CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has issued guidance on the placing of CCTV cameras near polling stations. [229273]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office has already issued a CCTV Code of Practice, which provides guidance to ensure that those who use CCTV comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. The code covers the siting of cameras. One of the tenets of the code is that equipment be sited for limited purposes and not in any manner incompatible with those purposes.

Prison Officers: Vaccinations

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers in England and Wales who are at occupational risk have been required to pay for vaccination against chronic hepatitis B since January 2000; and if he will make a statement. [229589]

Mr. Hanson: No prison officers in England and Wales have been required to pay for hepatitis B vaccination since January 2000. Prison Service policy is that all prisons are required to provide vaccinations for staff at risk. Staff are not charged.

Prisons: North-West

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which local authorities in the North-West have expressed an interest in a titan prison being established in their area. [223709]

Mr. Straw: One local authority in the North-West has so far indicated sites available in their area as possibly being suitable, that is Lancaster and Wyre.

Reparation by Offenders

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy on restorative justice and its future funding is; and if he will make a statement. [230120]

Maria Eagle: Our policy remains to encourage, but not require, the use of adult restorative justice, particularly as a service to victims where there is consistent evidence that it delivers high levels of satisfaction. It is for local criminal justice boards and other criminal justice agencies to consider how best to use their funding to meet their targets and local needs and a number of areas have established schemes to deliver adult restorative justice.

Youth offending teams use restorative justice as part of their work to prevent offending and increase victim satisfaction. They implement this work from their own resources.

Standford Hill Prison

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken in response to prisoners' views about methods of pain relief in Standford Hill Prison as outlined in the measuring the quality of prison life survey of June 2008; and whether there is a ban on prescribing oxycontin for pain relief in the prison. [229297]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service has no authority over the types of medication prescribed by doctors who work in prisons. Complaints should be taken up with the local primary care trust. There is not a ban on prescribing Oxycontin at Standford Hill.

Taxis: Licensing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there have been for offences relating to drivers operating taxi services without a licence in the last five years. [231214]

Maria Eagle: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. Offences relating to drivers operating taxi services without a licence are not notifiable offences and do not form a part of the arrests collection.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.167, and the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 Sec 40-60, and 62-68, in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

However only section 47 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 covers "Acting as a Hackney Carriage driver without a licence." The Office for Criminal Justice Reform is unable to separately identify offences under section 47 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, as they form part of a group which cannot be analysed further. The table shows data for sections 40-60 and 62-68 of the Act.

Court proceedings data are unable to separate Section 47—Act as a Hackney carriage driver without a licence, and Employ an unlicensed Hackney carriage driver. From the other set of offences under this statute as they are grouped together.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available at the end of November 2008.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S 167 and the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 Sec 40-60, and 62-68, in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Town Police Clauses Act 1847 Sec 40-60, and 62-68		*Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 167*	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
2002	450	391	229	182
2003	337	270	259	194
2004	292	248	483	311
2005	283	233	597	422
2006	391	325	714	384

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions

Town Police Clauses Act 1847 Sec 40-60, and 62-68.

Offences peculiar to stage carriage and public service vehicles.

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 167.

Touting for hire car service without PSV operator's licence.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Court proceedings data are unable to separate Section 47—Act as a Hackney carriage driver without a licence, and Employ an unlicensed Hackney carriage driver—from the other set of offences under this statute as they are grouped together.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Will Owen

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether all the official documents relating to Will Owen, former hon. Member for the former constituency of Morpeth, have been placed in the public domain; and if he will make a statement. [231268]

Mr. Wills: Official documents relating to Will Owen are available to view at the National Archives, either in their reading rooms at Kew or online.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefit

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he estimates are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of council tax benefit in each region. [229425]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* Estimates of the number of people eligible for council tax benefit are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest available information on the number of council tax benefit recipients by region is in the table.

Council tax benefit recipients by Government Office Region: August 2007

	Number
Great Britain	5,079,080
North East	296,640
North West	682,710
Yorkshire and the Humber	459,010
East Midlands	336,230
West Midlands	504,300
East	391,780
London	728,010
South East	503,910
South West	368,200
Wales	281,890
Scotland	526,400

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
5. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 2007.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much council tax benefit was paid in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 in (i) England and (ii) Wales; and how much is expected to be paid in 2008-09. [230817]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The available information on council tax benefit expenditure is in the following tables:

Council tax benefit expenditure for England and Wales

			£ million, nominal
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England	3,382	3,508	3,658
Wales	172	180	188

Council tax benefit expenditure

			£ million, 2008-09 prices
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England	3,596	3,613	3,658

Council tax benefit expenditure

£ million, 2008-09 prices

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Wales	183	186	188

Notes

1. There may be differences between figures quoted in these tables and those quoted in Department for Work and Pensions Accounts.

2. Expenditure for 2007-08 reflects the latest estimated outturn, and not the amounts voted by Parliament.

3. Real terms figures have been calculated using Gross Domestic Product deflators updated after the 2008 Budget Report on 12 March 2008.

Source:

Local authorities' subsidy returns and DWP forecasts.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what guidance his Department has issued on the criteria for remitting payment of housing benefit directly to landlords providing accommodation for vulnerable people; [230117]

(2) what discretion local authorities have to decide whether housing benefit is paid directly to landlords providing accommodation for vulnerable tenants; [230118]

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the merits of paying housing benefit directly to private landlords where their tenants agree. [229368]

Kitty Ussher: There will always be a small proportion of tenants who will struggle with the responsibility of paying their own rents, so there are safeguards in place.

We have not issued guidance on the payment of housing benefit directly to the landlord. If local authorities consider that the tenant is likely to have difficulty in relation to the management of their own affairs they may make payment to the landlord. For example, if the tenant is known to have a learning disorder or a drug/alcohol problem that would mean they are likely to have difficulty handling a budget, payment could be made to the landlord.

If local authorities consider it improbable that the customer will pay their rent, for example, if the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) authority is aware that the tenant has consistently failed to pay the rent on past occasions without good reason, payment might be made to the landlord.

This is made at the discretion of the local authority, which is best placed to decide.

Payment of housing benefit to the landlord is a statutory requirement if a tenant has built up rent arrears of eight weeks or more, or is having deductions from their Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance to pay off rent arrears. If this occurs, the local authority has the discretion to continue paying direct to the landlord when the level of arrears drops to below eight weeks. The use of an eight-week period ties in with the period of eight weeks in which a tenant can fail to pay the rent without being evicted.

In practical terms, this means that we advise local authorities to continue to encourage landlords to report any missing payments at the first opportunity. Where missed payments are reported, local authorities also continue to check whether there are any benefit issues outstanding, and seek evidence of any arrears outstanding through discussions with both landlords and tenants.

No assessment has been made of the merits of paying housing benefit directly to private landlords where their tenants agree. Choice is only one aspect of the LHA, but a key principle is responsibility. We want to turn housing benefit into an enabling benefit rather than passive support. This cannot be achieved without tenants taking personal responsibility for their rent.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what monitoring his Department is undertaking of the proportion of housing benefit paid directly to landlords because of the vulnerability of the tenant. [230119]

Kitty Ussher: The Department is undertaking a review of local housing allowance over the two years from the commencement of its national roll-out in April 2008. As part of this review, we will be monitoring the proportion of housing benefit claimants in the private rented sector who have their benefit paid directly to their landlord due to their vulnerability.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 145-46W, on income support: lone parents, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the letter sent to all lone parents that will be affected by the changes to the eligibility rules for income support coming into effect in November 2008, *(b)* a copy of the fact sheet for lone parents outlining the changes and *(c)* the leaflet and posters setting out the steps each lone parent should take; and if he will make a statement. [230234]

Kitty Ussher: A copy of the October customer mailshot letter, the November customer mailshot letter and current copies of all three customer lone parent changes fact sheets, are now available and will be placed in the Library. The fact sheets are also available on the Jobcentre Plus website.

All three fact sheets are currently being revised in preparation for distribution from 24 November, copies of which will be available, along with copies of the leaflets and posters, in the Library by the end of November.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 145-46W, on income support: lone parents, how many and what proportion of the lone parents who will be affected by the changes to the eligibility rules for income support coming into effect in November 2008 have been sent a letter outlining the effects that the changes may have on them, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [230236]

Kitty Ussher: On 7 October, 97,950 letters were sent by mailshot to customers in Great Britain and to 5,057 customers in Wales, informing them of the introduction of quarterly work-focused interviews, and previously between 18 August and 22 September, a mailshot was sent to all 32,245 lone parents currently claiming disability premium, who may also be affected by the changes.

We will write to around 110,000 lone parents, with a youngest child aged 11 and over, across England, Scotland and Wales during week commencing 24 November telling them about the changes and how they may be affected.

Local Housing Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the highest weekly payment of local housing allowance is that has been paid since its introduction; and in which broad market rental areas it was paid. [228872]

Kitty Ussher: The Rent Service has confirmed that the highest weekly local housing allowance (LHA) rate they have issued is £2,875 per week, which has been quoted in recent press stories. This LHA rate was provided for Broad Rental Market Areas Central London and Inner North and West London.

As the Department has not received data returns from all local authorities for the whole of the period since the introduction of the LHA, we cannot confirm what the highest weekly amount actually paid out has been.

Pension Credit

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average credit pension credit recipients will receive in each of the next three years. [230231]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The estimated average pension credit that will be received by each claimant in Great Britain over each of the next three years is given in the following table.

	Average pension credit (£ per week)
2008-09	51.50
2009-10	53.06
2010-11	55.00

Note:
Estimates are consistent with average weekly receipt estimates for 2007-08 from the Department's Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
Source:
DWP forecasts published spring 2008.

Pension Credit

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people applied for pension credit in each month since January 2006. [227970]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the amount of pension credit applications for each month from January 2006 to September 2008:

Pension credit claims received	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
January	33,454	27,914	25,619
February	36,930	23,525	23,460
March	38,246	26,932	20,791
April	27,810	26,209	24,265
May	30,725	26,710	21,946
June	32,625	23,893	23,251
July	28,606	24,490	27,903
August	31,332	24,594	22,869
September	28,525	24,107	25,226
October	28,072	24,121	—
November	30,368	24,319	—
December	21,402	17,123	—
12-month total	368,095	293,937	215,330

Source:
Management Information System Programme (MISP).

Pensioners: Income

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of households in Bexley is where all occupants are of pensionable age. [228242]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information that is available is shown in the following table. Information cannot be provided at a lower level than Government Office Region, averaged over three years. Figures are based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error. Figures are based on the average of three years' data as single year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes.

Average gross income of pensioner units where all members are state pension age or over, 2004-05 to 2006-07

	£per week (2006-07 prices)
London	351
United Kingdom	322

Notes:
1. Gross income is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits.
2. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error. Figures are based on the average of three years' data as single year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. United Kingdom figures are included on the same basis for comparison: further information for single years at a national level are available in the publication "Pensioners' Income Series 2006-07.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £.
4. Figures are based on the average incomes of pensioner units (couples or singles) where all members are state pension age or over.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures are in place to ensure that pensioners in receipt of a state pension and SERPS are not disadvantaged compared to those entitled to pension credits. [228581]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government provide a solid foundation of support for pensioners through the state pension system while focusing available resources on those who need most through targeted measures such as pension credit.

At the same time, pensioners in general are entitled to a range of benefits and concessions, including winter fuel payments; free TV licences for those aged over 75; and free bus travel, prescriptions, and eye tests for the over 60s.

At the point of initial contact with the Department pensioners are given information on the range of benefits to which they may be entitled.

Reforms by the Government will provide a firmer foundation for future pensioners through a simpler, more widely available and generous state pension.

Pensions: Economic Situation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the banking crisis on the value of pension funds and their ability to make payments as they fall due; and if he will make a statement. [227515]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest available data show that defined benefit scheme assets amounted to £768 billion at the end of September 2008, a decrease of 7.7 per cent. over the month and a fall of 4.8 per cent. over last the three months. This has left the aggregate funding position (total assets minus total liabilities) of defined benefit schemes at a deficit of £80.3 billion at end-September 2008.

In order to pay benefits already accrued under the scheme as these fall due, each defined benefit pension scheme is required by legislation to set a statutory funding objective to have sufficient and appropriate assets. This funding objective is updated regularly. Where such a scheme is under-funded it submits a recovery plan to the Pensions Regulator, and new recovery plans should reflect current economic conditions.

It should also be noted that while some defined benefit schemes may have deficits, many of their liabilities may not fall due for payment until many years into the future.

Note:

The data used are from the PPF 7800 Index using the monthly update for September 2008—the PPF 7800 is published by the Pension Protection Fund (PPF). Figures represent the latest estimated assets and net funding position, on a s179 basis, of almost 7,783 predominantly private sector defined benefit (DB) pension schemes in the UK. The s179 basis is, broadly speaking, what would have to be paid to an insurance company to take on the payment of PPF levels of compensation.

Poverty: Children

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist *(a)* workless households with children under five years of age and *(b)* families in relative poverty with children under five years of age; and if he will make a statement. [226609]

Kitty Ussher: To help children, we must help their families. For most families, paid work is the most important route out of poverty. Accordingly, we have a support package of pre-employment and in-work support measures to help lone parents and couple parents move into work, make work pay, and help sustainability and progression in work. This includes the new deal for lone parents, the new deal for partners and the Government's 10-year Childcare Strategy.

The Government also have a range of fiscal and support measures to raise family incomes and ensure families with young children can access high quality services to support their child's development.

Budget 2008 announced £125 million for pilots to test out new and innovative ways of tackling child poverty, over the next three years. The pilots will explore pioneering approaches to tackling child poverty, identifying those that deliver the best results and the most sustainable long-term impacts.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of three-to five-year olds were living in relative poverty in Leeds West constituency in each year since 1997; [226610]

(2) how many and what proportion of three-to five-year olds were living in workless households in Leeds West constituency in each year since 1997. [226611]

Kitty Ussher: Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, allow a breakdown of child poverty by Government office region. Information on the number and proportion of three to five-year-olds living in relative poverty is not available below the level of Government office region.

Data on the proportion of three to five-year-olds living in workless households are estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. As the group in question is very specific, the estimates are based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for these estimates and they are deemed unreliable for practical purposes. It is not possible to provide estimates from 1997 to 2003.

The following tables show the number and proportion of children aged three to five living in workless working age households in the Leeds, West constituency for the period January to December in each year since 2004.

Accompanying each estimate is a confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95 per cent. certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Number of children aged three to five in workless households in Leeds, West constituency: calendar years January to December in each year

	Estimate	*Lower bound*	*Upper bound*
2004	2,000	0	2,000
2005	2,000	0	2,000
2006	1,000	0	2,000
2007	1,000	0	2,000

Percentage of children aged three to five in workless households in Leeds, West constituency: calendar years January to December in each year

	Estimate	*Lower bound*	*Upper bound*
2004	41.0	10.5	71.5
2005	52.0	23.8	80.2
2006	25.6	0	56.2
2007	22.6	0	46.2

Notes:

1. Figures for households are based on working age households. A working age household is a household that includes at least one person of working age—that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

Source:

Annual Population Survey Household Datasets.

7

Retirement: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who wish to work beyond retirement age in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* the Leeds City area and *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside region in each year since 1997. [228292]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated October 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people who wish to work beyond retirement age in (a) Leeds West, (b) the Leeds City area and (c) Yorkshire and Humberside region in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (228292)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Estimates are provided for the number of people over statutory pension age (males aged 65 and over, females aged 60 and over) who stated they were available to work when surveyed. A respondent is classified as being available to work if they are unemployed and available to work, or employed.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of persons in employment and unemployment over statutory pension age in Leeds West, Leeds and the Yorkshire and the Humber region.

The estimates from 1998 to 2004 are for the 12 month period ending February that year and taken from the annual LFS. Figures for 2005 to 2008 are for the 12 month period ending March that year and taken from the APS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of people who are available to work[1] beyond statutory pension age in (a) Leeds West, (b) Leeds and (c) Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1997

Thousand

12 months ending	*Leeds West*	*Leeds*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*
February 1998	1	11	53
February 1999	[2]—	11	54
February 2000	2	10	54
February 2001	1	9	62
February 2002	1	10	59
February 2003	1	13	68
February 2004	1	14	73
March 2005	1	12	69
March 2006	2	10	74
March 2007	2	13	83
March 2008[3]	*2	*14	*90

[1] The number of people available to work is defined as those who responded either as being in employment or unemployed.

[2] Data are not available.

[3] Coefficients of variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See [4] as follows.

[4] *Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV ≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source:

Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Social Fund

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many callers were unable to speak to an operator about a Social Fund application in *(a)* the last quarter and *(b)* the last year for which figures are available. [229582]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about how many callers were unable to speak to an operator about a Social Fund application in *(a)* the last quarter and *(b)* the last year for which figures are available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information requested is not available. The current telephony management data does not tell us how many customers do not get through to an officer.

Jobcentre Plus are rolling out an advanced telephony system which will be completed at the end of April 2009 at which time we will look at producing telephony reports that provide this information.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the reasons why applications for Social Fund *(a)* community care grants decreased by 9.2 per cent. and *(b)* budgeting loans decreased by 11.3 per cent. between 2007 and 2008; and if he will make a statement. [231258]

Kitty Ussher: No assessment has been made of the reasons for the decreases in applications for Social Fund community care grants and budgeting loans. Applications for community care grants and budgeting Loans vary from year to year. Numbers have decreased previously and subsequently risen.

State Retirement Pension

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals received the state pension in each of the last five years. [229996]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the table.

	Number of individuals in receipt of state pension
2008	12,011,540
2007	11,785,670
2006	11,611,590
2005	11,519,880
2004	11,354,100

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.

2. Figures are taken at February for each year.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of pensioners potentially entitled to lump sum payments of backdated retirement pension through payment of Class 3

National Insurance contributions his Department has identified to date in the special exercise that is underway; how much has been paid out in such lump sums to date; to how many people; when he expects to complete this exercise; and if he will make a statement. [230358]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: The special exercise is due to be completed in December 2009. To date 4,917 pensioners have been identified with the potential to benefit from paying class 3 national insurance contributions. A further 1,580 pensioners have been identified who could potentially benefit from paying class 3 national insurance contributions and from home responsibilities protection. These pensioners are being contacted and given the option of whether to pay class 3 national insurance contributions. There are also 771 pensioners identified who could benefit from home responsibilities protection only. So far arrears of £13,650.28 state pension have been paid to nine pensioners who benefited from home responsibilities protection.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to extend the right of women to buy retrospective national insurance contributions in order to qualify for a state pension. [226142]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have considered a range of options to help individuals who have gaps in their National Insurance contribution records to purchase additional voluntary Class 3 National Insurance contributions. We propose to allow individuals who are eligible to purchase voluntary Class 3 National Insurance contributions to buy an additional six years over and above those permitted under the current time limits. The time limited proposal will apply to those who reach State Pension age between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2015 and who already have 20 qualifying years (taking into account Home Responsibilities Protection) on their National Insurance record.

The measure will help people, particularly women and carers, who are approaching State Pension age but have earlier gaps in their National Insurance records to improve their basic State Pension.

We intend to amend the current Pensions Bill to give effect to the measure.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many winter fuel payments have been made to pensioner households in each of the last five years. [230129]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the number of winter fuel payments made to households for the last five years. Figures for 2007-08 are not yet available but we expect the number to be similar to that for winter 2006-07.

Winter fuel payments made to pensioner households by year

	Number
2002-03	11,348,040
2003-04	11,468,240
2004-05	11,401,170
2005-06	11,514,760
2006-07	11,702,900

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

Winter Fuel Payments: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much he expects to pay to pensioner households in York in winter fuel payments in 2008-09; [230253]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of households in York which will receive the *(a)* £250 and *(b)* £400 winter fuel payment in 2008-09. [230254]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

PQ/08/230253

Expenditure on winter fuel payments in the parliamentary constituency of York in 2006-07 was £3.5 million. Expenditure on winter fuel payments in the local authority area in 2006-07 was £6.5 million. Forecasts of benefit expenditure are not produced below national level and it is not possible to derive a forecast for 2008-09 using 2006-07 outturn data because the benefit rates for winter fuel payments have changed for 2008-09 and because adequate caseload data are not available.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

PQ/08/230254

Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available.

In winter 2006-07 we made:

10,810 winter fuel payments to households in the city of York constituency and 20,820 winter fuel payments to households in York local authority with a member aged 60-79; and

4,080 winter fuel payments to households in the city of York constituency and 7,340 winter fuel payments to households in York local authority with a member aged 80 or over.

We expect in 2008-09 similar numbers to receive the £250 and £400 respectively.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. Please note that a small number of these households receive amounts higher than the usual rate for their age group, where the household includes more than two individuals each entitled to payments at half of the usual household rate.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

Work Permits

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work permits have been issued in 2008 for shortage occupations. [227406]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

During the period, 1 January 2008 to 15 October 2008, 6,596 work permits were issued to applicants under the Shortage Occupations category.

The figure quoted is not provided under National Statistics protocols and has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising Standards Agency: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1296W, on the Advertising Standards Authority: public appointments, what requirement there is on the Chairman of the Authority to have regard to a balance of political views when making appointments to the Advertising Standards Authority Council. [230012]

Andy Burnham: The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) Council operates independently of the Government, and therefore this is a matter for the ASA.

Digital Broadcasting

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in improving the digital signal for terrestrial television in the UK; and what further steps are planned. [229852]

Andy Burnham: Digital signals cannot be increased in power until analogue television services are switched off as unacceptable levels of interference would otherwise occur. The digital signal will be improved over the next four years as digital switchover takes place on a region-by-region basis across the UK, completing in 2012. The process commenced in the Border region where the first switchover has already occurred at Whitehaven in Cumbria. The Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency is in the Tyne-Tees region which is planned to switch in 2012 along with London, the south of England and Northern Ireland.

Digital Broadcasting: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department plans to take to improve the digital signal for terrestrial television in the North East. [229853]

Andy Burnham: At present only 80 principal transmitters out of the UK's network of over 1,150 TV transmitters broadcast digital services. This restriction is necessary because at present analogue TV services occupy most of the spectrum allocated to TV broadcasting. When digital switchover occurs two things will happen. Firstly, the power of the digital services from the 80 existing transmitters will be increased significantly, including the main transmitters at Pontop Pike and Bilsdale that serve much of the north-east of England. Secondly, the analogue-only transmitters such as those in my hon. Friend's constituency, at Eston Nab, Guisborough and Skinningrove, will all be converted to broadcast digital signals. Together these two measures will improve reception reliability and extend the reach of the digital TV services to the same proportion of the population that is able to receive analogue television. There are three analogue-only relay transmitters in the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency, so there will be patches where reception is not very good at present.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Borders Region

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2020W, on the Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Borders Regions, how many people have now been identified as eligible for assistance under the scheme in the area covered by the Selkirk television transmitter and its related relays on the grounds that they are *(a)* over 75 years old, *(b)* in receipt of (i) disability living allowance, (ii) attendance allowance and (iii) constant attendance allowance and *(c)* registered blind or partially sighted; what the overall percentage take-up of eligible people has been to date; and how many people have opted for (A) the default option of Sky, (B) a Freeview digital box, (C) a Freeview playback digital television recorder, (D) a new television with digital built-in, (E) Freesat and (F) Top Up TV. [228568]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 22 October 2008]*: A total of 16,618 people in the area covered by Selkirk television transmitter and its related relays are currently identified as eligible for the switchover help scheme. The total of eligible people has been adjusted in the light of information from Television Licensing, since possession of a TV licence is a condition of eligibility. All potentially eligible people, including those without a TV licence or not yet confirmed to have one, have now been contacted by the help scheme.

Of those currently eligible, *(a)* 10,576 people are eligible on the grounds that they are aged 75 years or over, *(b)* 5,804 are under 75 and eligible on grounds that they receive a disability benefit, and *(c)* 238 people who do not fit either of these categories are eligible on the grounds that they are registered blind or partially sighted.

A breakdown of numbers in receipt of each disability allowance is not available as this information is not needed for the purposes of the scheme.

The number of people who have opted into the help scheme now stands at 2,758 people, or 16.6 per cent. of the eligible total. 7,274 or 43.8 per cent. of the total have responded. Of those that have opted in, 2,178 have made a choice of option and 580 have yet to choose. Of those that have made a choice, 59 per cent. have chosen the standard offer of a Sky satellite system, 39 per cent. have chosen a Freeview terrestrial set top box or upgrade, and the remainder have chosen freesat from ITV and BBC or Top Up TV.

Public Libraries

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government has taken to modernise public libraries. [229341]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: In 2003 DCMS published Framework for the Future, the Government's 10-year national public library strategy. This provided a broad vision to enable libraries to modernise through promoting reading and learning, enabling access to digital skills and services and encouraging community cohesion and civic values as well as looking for the scope for capacity building. Framework for the

Future has been underpinned by work funded through the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), including the training programme, Leading Modern Public Libraries, and library service peer reviews.

In the context of framework, on 9 October 2008 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced that DCMS will undertake a Library Service Modernisation Review to define the Government's vision for a modern, world-class public library service and set out some of the necessary steps to achieve this vision. This review, which is expected to report in the spring of 2009, aims to support local authorities in delivering modernised, responsive and appealing library services for their communities, and to improve performance and increase usage.

The BIG Lottery Fund £80 million Community Libraries Programme is an investment across England to improve community learning opportunities through libraries. Part of this is offering the types of opportunities that are essential to the delivery of modern library services. These include learning opportunities and activities to attract new library users such as reading groups, writing groups, language classes, family learning activities, art and museum exhibitions, cultural activities, drama, information seminars and health initiatives.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government has taken to increase use of public libraries. [229342]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* On 9 October 2008 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced that DCMS will undertake a Library Service Modernisation Review to define the Government's vision for a modern, world-class public library service and set out some of the necessary steps to achieve this vision. This review, which is expected to report in the spring of 2009, aims to support local authorities in delivering modernised, responsive and appealing library services for their communities, and to improve performance and increase usage.

Libraries have played a central role in the Department for Children, Schools and Families funded National Year of Reading, holding a broad range of themed events and activities, and as part of their membership drive signing up over 1 million new members since April 2008.

There are a significant number of programmes funded by Departments, sponsored organisations and third sector partners which promote the increased use of public libraries: these include Bookstart, Book Ahead, Boys into Books, the Summer Reading Challenge, Booked Up, Fulfilling their Potential and the Vital Link.

The BIG Lottery Fund's £80 million Community Libraries Programme is an investment across England to improve community learning opportunities through libraries. Part of this is offering the types of opportunities essential to the delivery of modern library services, including, learning activities to attract new library users such as reading groups, writing groups, language classes, family learning activities, art and museum exhibitions, cultural activities, drama, information seminars and health initiatives.

Sport England: Public Appointments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1206W, on Sport England: public appointments, how much he expects the re-advertisement of the position of chairman to cost. [230768]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* It is expected that the cost of re-advertising the position of chair and advertising the position of deputy chair will be £13,150.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has had from UK sporting organisations on the adoption of a wider list of sports eligible for elite funding. [225019]

Andy Burnham: DCMS receives occasional representations from sporting organisations, and from hon. Members on their behalf, requesting that Government funding of elite sport be provided to a broader range of sports, including the sport of lacrosse.

The primary focus of the finite funding that the Government have available to support high performance sports is to enable our very best Olympic and Paralympic athletes to deliver the ambitious medal goals for London 2012. Funding is therefore concentrated on Olympic and Paralympic sports.

Sports: Learning Disability

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department provided for elite athletes with a learning disability in each year between 1997 and 2001. [230113]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* Elite athletes were funded by Sport England from 1997 to 1999 after which it became the responsibility of UK Sport. Between 1999 and 2000 Sport England administered lottery payment operations on behalf of UK Sport and retained the athlete records. The transfer of operations took place during 2000-01.

Sport England have advised that their records do not identify which athletes had a learning disability and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

UK Sport provided the following funding for elite athletes with learning disabilities in 2001.

Financial year	*Funding (£)*
2000-01	22,698
2001-02	84,987

Swimming

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of funding for the Government's free swimming initiative has been allocated to improving access to swimming lessons. [229022]

Andy Burnham: Initiatives such as swimming lessons will be funded from the overall package.

Government are currently working with stakeholders including the Amateur Swimming Association and Sport England on the detailed cost, design and delivery arrangements for such initiatives.

Television

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of households which are unable to receive all five terrestrial television channels as a result of geography or topography. [229326]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* At present, approximately 20 per cent. of UK households cannot receive all five analogue terrestrial channels. However, 98.5 per cent. of UK households can receive BBC1 and 2, ITV and Channel 4 analogue services.

Digital terrestrial coverage allows 73 per cent. of UK households to receive the five services. After digital switchover has been completed, it is expected that 98.5 per cent. of households will receive all of public service television channels.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households have a free television licence. [230886]

Andy Burnham: As my hon. Friend may know, people who are aged 75 or over are entitled to a free Over 75 TV Licence for their home. In the financial year 2007-08 4.003 million free over 75 licences were issued.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households have a television licence. [230887]

Andy Burnham: The following statistics are for licences in force in the UK as at 31 March 2008.

Region	*Total licences in force (million)*
England	20.574
Northern Ireland	0.635
Scotland	2.195
Wales	1.242
Channel Islands	0.093
Total	24.740

Please note these statistics are approximations of the numbers of licences in force (in total, not just in households) and are not exact. They also do not include licences held by premises which are classed as Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC). This is because a detailed breakdown of ARC or other licences by nation is not held.

It may also be interesting to note that figures from the Broadcaster's Audience Research Board (BARB) estimate that the percentage of households in the UK which have a television is 98 per cent. More information on BARB can be found on their website at

http://www.barb.co.uk/.

Veredus

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been paid to Veredus in each of the last five years; and how much has been spent in respect of recruitment to the position of Chairman of Sport England. [230080]

Andy Burnham: The release of this information is likely to prejudice commercial interests and therefore cannot be disclosed.

Wines

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's practice is on supplying non-alcoholic wine as a choice at official receptions or functions. [229126]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department supplies good quality soft drinks as an alternative to non-alcoholic wine at official receptions and functions.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs about support for taxpayers who have savings in a bank which has required payments from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme with regard to tax instalments falling due on 31 January 2009. [228411]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers regularly discuss a wide range of issues with their officials in HMRC and other Departments.

HMRC currently offers 'time to pay' arrangements to viable businesses facing temporary financial difficulties. These allow outstanding tax to be spread over a period (usually of months) based on what a business can genuinely afford to pay. Interest applies but the rates are competitive compared to commercial lending.

This approach is designed to ensure otherwise viable businesses are not driven into insolvency by HMRC, both supporting business and in turn maximising tax recovery. Similar "time to pay" arrangements apply to individuals who are not classed as "in business".

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which companies have been appointed to assist his Department in the preparation of his plans for financial support to the banking industry. [228815]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 2008]:* The Treasury has taken financial advice from Credit Suisse and Deutsche Bank and legal advice from Slaughter and May with regards to implementing the recapitalisation scheme. On matter relating to financial stability, the Treasury also takes advice from the Bank of England and FSA.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received from the government of Iceland on the use of anti-terrorist legislation to seize Icelandic bank assets; [229067]

(2) what steps he is taking to *(a)* improve relations with Iceland and *(b)* help that country in its financial difficulties. [229069]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 October 2008]*: The Government are working closely with the Icelandic authorities to resolve issues of mutual interest related to the financial crisis.

Bank Services: Iceland

Mr. Cawsey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether all UK charities who had deposits with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Bank will have those deposits fully protected by the Government. [226826]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 October 2008]*: The Government have put in place arrangements to ensure that all FSCS-eligible depositors in the Icelandic banks of Landsbanki, Heritable and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander will receive their money in full. If a charity is eligible to claim compensation from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, it will be entitled to benefit from these arrangements.

Bank Services: Low Incomes

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to ensure that banks support low income households in accessing financial services during the current financial situation. [228293]

Ian Pearson: The Government are working closely with banks to ensure that low income households can access a wide range of financial services. In particular, the banks and the Government have agreed a shared goal to halve the number of adults without access to a bank account. Being able to use a bank account continues to be an important factor in whether people can play a full part in society.

Progress towards this goal has been encouraging, and the Government and banks are working together to ensure that this continues.

In December 2007 the banks also committed to support third sector affordable credit, including action to develop new provision in 25 high priority areas identified by the Financial Inclusion Taskforce's third sector credit Working Group. Taskforce and Government will continue to work with the banks to build on these commitments.

Banking Services: Small Businesses

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment the Government has made of the likely effect on small businesses of the collapse of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Limited. [227629]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 October 2008]*: The Government have put in place arrangements to ensure that all FSCS-eligible depositors in the Icelandic banks of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander will receive their money in full. If a small business is eligible to claim compensation from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, it will be entitled to benefit from these arrangements. Those depositors that are ineligible for FSCS compensation will be creditors of the bank in the normal way.

Banking Supervision

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which budgets capital was made available to *(a)* support and *(b)* invest in banks; what considerations were given to presenting a Bill to put the provision of money to banks on a specific legislative footing; and if he will publish on his Departmental website the minutes of meetings held with chief executives and other senior executives from banks and Treasury Ministers, officials and Financial Services Authority officials since 1 September 2008. [227919]

Ian Pearson: This package of measures to support and invest in banks announced on 8 October will be funded through the Government's ordinary borrowing mechanisms, via the central Government debt and cash management operations. We are investing in the banks themselves on commercial terms.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, other Treasury Ministers and officials regularly meet with representatives of the banking industry. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely extent of nationalisation of the British banking system which will be necessary. [227994]

Ian Pearson: Both the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer have made it clear that the Government will do whatever is necessary, whatever is right, to ensure the stability of the financial system. The Chancellor in his statements of 8 October and 13 October detailed the steps taken to ensure financial stability. This package of measures has subsequently been replicated throughout the world.

Banks: Iceland

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what protection there is under UK banking regulations for the savings of UK citizens deposited in Icelandic banks trading in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [226237]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 279-80.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the current economic situation in Iceland on *(a)* UK-owned banks and *(b)* banks located in the United Kingdom. [226243]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 279-80.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Seventeenth Report of the Treasury Committee on Banking Reform, HC 1008, what subjects were discussed during the regular contact between the Icelandic regulator and the Financial Services Authority. [230529]

Ian Pearson: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the FSA, whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence.

Banks: Insolvency

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on financial institutions of the tighter insolvency regime introduced by the Financial Services Authority in 2003, with particular reference to Standard Life; and if he will make a statement. [226624]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* This is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA) as an independent regulator.

Bradford and Bingley

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the nationalisation of Bradford and Bingley. [226751]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The Government's objectives in taking Bradford and Bingley into public ownership were to protect depositors and maintain financial stability.

Payments to protect depositors were largely funded by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), with taxpayers providing £4 billion to cover deposits over £35,000. The Government aim to recoup this payment from the proceeds of the wind-down and realisation of the assets of the remaining business of Bradford and Bingley in public ownership.

Bradford and Bingley: Santander Group

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the terms of the agreement were with Santander Abbey over Bradford and Bingley, with particular reference to the balance between cash and other assets covering the retail deposit base. [230177]

Ian Pearson: Details of these arrangements are available on the Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bradford_bingley_assets_transfer.htm

Building Societies: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government has taken to ensure the interests of all building societies are taken into account in the Government's financial strategy during the current economic difficulties. [228597]

Ian Pearson: The recapitalisation scheme announced on 8 October provides three measures aimed to help not just UK banks (including foreign subsidiaries) but also UK building societies. The extension of the Special Liquidity Scheme will provide short-term liquidity. The recapitalisation through shares (both ordinary and preference) as well as Permanent Interest Bearing Shares (PIBS), will strengthen institutions' resources, allowing them to restructure their finances while maintaining their support for the real economy. The credit guarantee scheme will ensure that the banking system has the necessary funds in the medium term. This scheme, which is now being replicated worldwide, is available for all UK building societies.

Capital Investment

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which capital projects he has identified to date as suitable to be fast-tracked during the current economic uncertainty. [230097]

Yvette Cooper: The Chancellor of the Exchequer will provide an update on the UK fiscal position at the 2008 pre-Budget report. It will set out how we are supporting the economy in the short-term, while taking the necessary decisions to ensure the public finances remain on a sustainable path in the medium term.

Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location was of the last meeting of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. [230918]

Ian Pearson: The last recorded business meeting of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt took place on 12 October 1860. The meeting took place at the Offices of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Corporation Tax: Tax Yields

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of corporation tax receipts, excluding North Sea revenues, in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [231240]

Angela Eagle: The latest corporation tax receipt forecasts, excluding North sea revenues, were provided in Budget 2008. Updated forecasts will be provided in the forthcoming 2008 pre-Budget report.

The latest corporation tax receipt figures, including North sea revenues, are available on the latest September 2008 Public Sector Finances press release, which is accessible from:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/psf1008.pdf

Credit Rating

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish an inquiry into the competence of credit rating agencies. [228372]

Ian Pearson: The European Commission finished consulting on a EU-wide registration scheme for credit rating agencies on 5 September, and is due to report on the outcome of this consultation on November 12. We are working internationally to improve the incentives for credit rating agencies to supply more and better information that market participants want and to avoid creating undesirable incentives for investors to over-rely on ratings. However, any approach will need to be internationally agreed as far as possible both given the nature of the ratings system as well as to avoid the possibility of regulatory arbitrage.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230205]

Angela Eagle: The disciplinary procedure for departmental staff permits managers to impose the following range of disciplinary penalties:

Oral warning;

Written warning;

Final written warning;

Past or future performance payments withheld or withdrawn in whole or part;

Financial penalty by way of fine or restitution for loss or damage (payments recovered by deduction from pay);

Ban on promotion for a specified period;

Suspension or withdrawal of security clearance;

Suspension for a specified period with or without loss of pay;

Transfer to a lower pay range for a specified period with appropriate reduction in salary; and

Dismissal.

The following penalties were imposed in each of the last three years. The response covers employees of HM Treasury, OGC, OGC Buying Solutions and DMO.

Penalty	*Number*
2008-09 to date	
Written Warning	Less than 5 cases
2007-08	
Oral Warning	Less than 5 cases
Written Warning	8 cases
Dismissal	Less than 5 cases
2006-07	
Oral Warning	Less than 5 cases
Written Warning	Less than 5 cases
Final Warning	Less than 5 cases
Dismissal	Less than 5 cases

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220732]

Angela Eagle: All of the paper used for photocopying in the Department in the last two years was made from at least 80 per cent. recycled sources, with over 90 per cent. in the last year from 100 per cent. recycled sources.

From October 2008, all of the paper purchased for printing and photocopying in HM Treasury group will be from 100 per cent. recycled sources.

From March 2008 HM Treasury has used paper that is 100 per cent. recycled on all printed publications. Before this, publications were printed on at least 75 per cent. recycled paper.

Departmental Procurement

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ease the procedures for tendering and procurement between Government departments and *(a)* social enterprises and *(b)* small- and medium-sized enterprises. [230228]

Angela Eagle: The Government's policy on SMEs and third sector organisations (including social enterprises) is to encourage and support these organisations to compete for public sector contracts where this is consistent with value for money policy, the UK regulations, the EU treaty principles and the EU procurement directives.

The OGC has developed guidance to help procurers engage with these organisations within the legal and policy framework surrounding public procurement. Budget 2008 asked Anne Glover to lead a committee looking into what further work is needed to remove barriers. The recommendations of that committee will be published in the pre-Budget report.

Departmental Secretarial Staff

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department provides a separate diary secretary to *(a)* the Economic Secretary, *(b)* the Financial Secretary, *(c)* the Exchequer Secretary and *(d)* the Minister of State. [230928]

Angela Eagle: Diary secretary functions are performed by the staff of the private offices concerned.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) agencies sponsored by his Department in each year since 2001. [228960]

Angela Eagle: The information requested in respect of the Treasury and the DMO is as follows:

Department	*Year*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Total*
H M Treasury	2001[1]	—	—	—
	2002[1]	—	—	—
	[illegible]	125	3	128
	[illegible]	17	0	17
	[illegible]	34	2	36
	2006	46	2	48
	2007	74	0	74
	2008	76	2	78
	2001[1]	—	—	—
	2002[1]	—	—	—
	2003	11	0	11
	2004[1]	—	—	—
	2005[1]	—	—	—
	2006	2	0	0
	2007	0	0	0
	2008	3	0	3

[1] HM Treasury figures for 2001 and 2002. DMO figures for 2001, 2002, 2004 and 2005 are not available, other than at disproportionate cost.

Departmental passes are disabled as soon as they are reported as lost or stolen, and do not contain information that links them to their respective building or organisation.

EU External Trade: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether European Commission officials have on any occasion launched investigations inside Israel to determine whether Israeli importers are correctly applying the 2005 technical arrangement of the EU-Israel Association Agreement with regard to goods being charged at the correct duty. [229916]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs are not aware of any investigations having been instigated by the European Commission.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests for information have been raised with the Israeli customs authorities to establish whether consignments have been imported from Israel or Israeli settlements under the 2005 technical arrangement of the EU-Israel Association Agreement in each of the last three years. [229931]

Mr. Timms: The number of requests for information HM Revenue and Customs have raised with the Israeli authorities is as follows:

	Number
1 February 2005 to 31 January 2006	13
1 February 2006 to31 January 2007	6
1 February 2007 to 31 January 2008	2

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests for information to the Israeli customs authorities, under the 2005 technical arrangement regarding the origin of consignments from Israel or Israeli settlements had not been answered within 10 months, in each of the last three years. [229932]

Mr. Timms: The number of HM Revenue and Customs requests for information which have not been answered within 10 months is as follows:

	Number
1 February 2005 to 31 January 2006	10
1 February 2006 to 31 January 2007	2
1 February 2007 to 31 January 2008	0

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests for information regarding consignments believed to have originated from Israeli settlements have been answered by Israeli customs authorities in each of the last three years; and how many such consignments the Israeli government determined had originated from settlements. [229933]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs advise as follows:

1 February 2005 to 31 January 2006—five requests answered (four consignments confirmed as having originated in a Settlement)

1 February 2006 to 31 January 2007—six requests answered (two consignments confirmed as having originated in a Settlement)

1 February 2007 to 31 January 2008—two requests answered (neither consignment originated in a Settlement)

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure Israeli customs authorities respond to all requests from HM Revenue and Customs made under the 2005 technical arrangement. [229934]

Mr. Timms: The Israeli customs authorities are bound by the requirements of Article 33 of Protocol 4 to the EC—Israel Trade Association Agreement to reply to verification requests within 10 months. HM Revenue and Customs pursues responses to outstanding requests via correspondence with the Israeli authorities.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he has issued any fines to companies for falsely declaring goods are from Israel when they have originated from illegal Israeli settlements under the 2005 technical arrangement. [229935]

Mr. Timms: No fines have been issued.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Israeli customs authorities have provided HM Revenue and Customs with a list of postcodes for Israeli settlements and the corresponding names and addresses of each settlement. [229936]

Mr. Timms: A list of postcodes and names of settlements was supplied to the European Commission by the Israeli customs authorities. This list was subsequently passed to all member states.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will put in place procedures to record the import of products from illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory separately from those relating to Israel. [229937]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs already keep records of any imports that are from Israeli Settlements and identified as incorrectly claiming Israeli preferential origin.

Financial Inclusion Team

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to what publications his Department's Financial Inclusion Team contributed in each of the last 10 years. [230924]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury's Financial Inclusion Team has published several documents setting out the Government's policy on financial inclusion. The first was 'Promoting Financial Inclusion', in December 2004. In March 2007 HM Treasury published 'Financial Inclusion: The Way Forward' and a 'Review of Christmas Saving Schemes'. The most recent document was 'Financial Inclusion: An Action Plan for 2008-11', published in December 2007, which includes details of how the Government will invest their £130 million Financial Inclusion Fund over the current spending review period.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials were employed in his Department's Financial Inclusion Team *(a)* on a full-time equivalent basis and *(b)* on a headcount basis (i) in each of the last 10 years and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [230925]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury has had a Financial Inclusion Team since 2004. The team has included between two and four full-time staff since its inception. As of October 2008 it has three full-time team members.

Government Securities

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value of *(a)* index linked and *(b)* conventional gilts planned to be auctioned by the Debt Management Office in each of the next 12 months. [230783]

Ian Pearson: The Government's future issuance plans are published in the Debt and Reserves Management Report 2008-09 and were recently revised on 14 October 2008. The Government do not publish estimates for the amounts that will be auctioned in future calendar months.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average capital value was of *(a)* a pre-1919 terraced house (modernised), *(b)* an inter-war semi-detached house (modernised), *(c)* a post-1960 semi-detached house, *(d)* a post-1960 detached house and *(e)* a post-1960 flat in a three (or more) storey block, according to Valuation Office Agency records in (i) the most recent month for which figures are available, (ii) the same month in 2007 and (iii) the same month in 2006 in (A) England and (B) each local authority area or equivalent area that the Agency uses in England. [230332]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency could provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

The Agency publishes a bi-annual Property Market Report (PMR) which is available on its website www.voa.gov.uk: this includes a section on housing which provides opinions of the capital value of such properties for certain named towns and cities throughout the United Kingdom.

Icesave

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Nordic countries on their reciprocal financial compensation scheme and its application to the Icesave online bank. [226741]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: The Government are working closely with the Icelandic authorities to resolve issues of mutual interest related to the financial crisis, including compensation of depositors in Icesave.

Imports: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consignments of Israeli goods entered the UK in each of the last three years. [229927]

Mr. Timms: The number of consignments entering the UK in each year since the implementation on 1 February 2005 of the technical arrangement, in which Israeli exporters are bound to indicate the place of production on the proof of origin, are as follows:

1 February to 31 January each year	*Number*
2005-06	77,086
2006-07	75,631
2007-08	83,225

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many targeted physical examinations have been carried out on goods coming into the UK from Israel in the last three years. [229930]

Mr. Timms: Information for the whole period is unavailable. However, HM Revenue and Customs undertook a specifically targeted exercise of physical examinations from the end of July until the end of September 2008 to identify potential settlement goods incorrectly described as being of Israeli origin. 26 consignments were examined in that period.

Imports: Occupied Territories

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consignments of goods entered the UK from the occupied Palestinian territory in each of the last three years. [229929]

Mr. Timms: The number of consignments entering the UK in each of the years since the implementation on 1 February 2005 of the technical arrangement, are as follows:

	Number
1 February 2005 to 31 January 2006	3,386
1 February 2006 to 31 January 2007	2,831
1 February 2007 to 31 January 2008	2,445

Inflation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has undertaken recently into the effect of incomes restraint on inflation. [211403]

Yvette Cooper: The Government regularly monitor developments in public and private sector pay and inflation. Wage pressures are one of the factors considered by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England when setting interest rates to meet the inflation target.

The Bank of England considers pay restraint across the economy to be key to maintaining low and stable inflation.

Iraq Conflict: Finance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 918W, on the Iraq conflict, if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest report by his Department into the implications for the Exchequer and the economy of military operations in Iraq. [229448]

Yvette Cooper: Details of the costs of military operations in Iraq and their expected impact on the public finances are published annually in the Ministry of Defence's Annual Report and Accounts and in the Department's Parliamentary Supply Estimates.

Landfill Tax: Tax Yields

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the gross revenue from landfill tax in each of the next three years. [230678]

Angela Eagle: Forecast landfill tax receipts for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are published in Table A11 of the 2008 Budget Report.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228546]

Angela Eagle: No specific information has been gathered in regards to employees with mental illnesses. However, the Treasury and other public sector bodies offer confidential staff welfare services, and make reasonable adjustments to any HR policy or process to any employee or applicant with a disability.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct those banks which have received funds from the public purse not to repossess any property in cases where the mortgage holder is unable to keep up payments where the property in question is the mortgage holder's home and solely-owned property. [229840]

Ian Pearson: On 8 October this year, the Government announced a comprehensive package of measures to support stability of the financial system, protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers, and to safeguard the interests of the taxpayer.

As part of their investment, the Government have agreed with the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme a range of commitments. Details are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_105_08.htm

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's non-domestic rating guidance, RAT IA, as amended to include advice on the smoking ban. [230305]

Mr. Timms: A copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Rating Instruction and Advice reference 260106, which was updated to include advice on the Smoking Ban in June 2008, has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology will be used to calculate the rateable value of *(a)* micro wind turbines and *(b)* solar or photovoltaic cells, for the 2010 rates revaluation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the relevant guidance used by the Valuation Office Agency. [230309]

Mr. Timms: The method of determining the rateable value for the 2010 revaluation of these items will be by reference to cost as at 1 April 2008 (antecedent valuation date) multiplied by the decapitalisation rate applicable from 1 April 2010. For the 2005 rating lists, wind turbines or solar/voltaic cells operating within the microgeneration rules are treated as excepted plant and machinery and attract no rateable value. This will be applicable up to and including 31 March 2010.

The SI 2008 No. 2332 came into force on 1 October 2008 and detailed guidance for VOA staff is in preparation. This will be incorporated into the VOA Rating Manual which is available on the VOA website at www.voa.gov.uk. It is anticipated that the guidance will be published by 30 November 2008.

North Sea Oil

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of North Sea revenues in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [231279]

Angela Eagle: The Government's most recent forecast for North sea revenues can be found in Tables C6 and C7 of the Budget 2008 document. Our next forecast will be published at PBR 2008.

Northern Rock: Mortgages

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mortgage repossessions Northern Rock has initiated in each month since it was taken into public ownership. [230138]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 728W.

Overseas Companies: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs maintain a list of companies operating in illegal Israeli settlements. [229917]

Mr. Timms: While HM Revenue and Customs does not maintain a full list of companies operating in the illegal settlements, it does keep a record of companies whose goods have been identified as originating in a settlement.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he and his predecessor introduced in each year since 1997 with the aim of reducing childhood poverty. [228233]

Mr. Timms: Since 1997 the Government have introduced a range of measures to make work pay such as tax credits and the national minimum wage, which have increased the minimum income the people can expect on moving into work. As a result of tax and benefit reforms, by October 2008, families with children in the poorest fifth of the population will be on average £4,100 a year better off. The following list outlines those measure that impact exclusively on families with children.

April 1999—Above indexation increase in child benefit introduced

October 1999—Working family tax credit introduced

April 2000—Increase in under-11 working family tax credit child rate

June 2000—Increase in under-16 working family tax credit child rate

October 2000—Increase in under-16 child rates in income support and other income relate benefits

April 2001—Children's tax credit introduced at £520 a year

June 2001—£5 increase in working family tax credit basic credit

October 2001—£1.50 increase in income support child credits

April 2002—Introduction of under one's children's tax credit

June 2002—Increase in working family tax credit basic credit

October 2002—Increase in income support/job seeker's allowance child credits

April 2003—Introduction of new tax credits

April 2004—Increase in child element of child tax credit by £3.50

September 2004—Introduction of education maintenance allowance

April 2005—working family tax credit increase in child care limits to £175/£300 per week

April 2006—Extension of child benefit and child tax credit to young people in learning.

April 2006—Percentage of child care costs eligible for support through working tax credit increased from 70 per cent. to 80 per cent.

April 2008—Earnings uprating of child element of child tax credit extended to 2009-10.

April 2008—Increase child element of child tax credit by £175 above earnings indexation

April 2009—Eldest child benefit rate increased to £20 per week

April 2009—Increase child element of child tax credit by £50 above indexation

October 2009—Child benefit disregard introduced in housing and council tax benefits

April 2010—Increase child element of child tax credit by £25 above indexation

Public Works Loan Board

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value of loans to be made by the Public Works Loan Board in each of the next 12 months. [230937]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is available in table C12 of Budget 2008 (HC 388).

Regulation

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the European Union to change the mark or marking to market rules. [227657]

Ian Pearson: The International Accounting Standards Board and the European Commission have acted very expeditiously to introduce the necessary changes already.

The EU website carries full details of the changes

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/accounting/ias_en.htm

These are summarised in a press release which can be found at:

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1513&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Revenue and Customs: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) plans to spend on *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* upgrading of its offices at (i) St. Helens and (ii) Blackburn in each of the next three years. [229978]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC's) offices are occupied under the terms of an estates private finance initiative (PFI) contract. HMRC's estates partner, Mapeley, is responsible for maintenance of the sites to the required contractual accommodation standards.

HMRC pay a unitary Facility Price to Mapeley in return for fully serviced accommodation. In view of this there is no requirement for HMRC to spend additional sums on the day to day maintenance of the sites; HMRC has no plans to implement any works to upgrade the sites over and above the current contractual agreement.

Seafarers' Earnings Deduction

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to issue revised guidance on eligibility to claim the seafarers' earnings deduction. [230018]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 548W to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle).

Swimming

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department had with *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* the Local Government Association and *(c)* the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers' Association before his announcement of free swimming for the over 60s. [223382]

Andy Burnham: *[holding answer 10 September 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

Before my statement to the House of 17 July in which I set out the details of the Government's free swimming programme, my Department held several discussions with representatives of local authorities, of the Local Government Association and of the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers' Association.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons his Department sends a standard tax credits renewal pack to the next-of-kin of deceased tax credit claimants. [225398]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 9 October 2008]*: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) fully recognise the distress that bereavement causes for families.

When a customer dies HMRC has a statutory obligation to ensure the correct amount of tax credits was paid prior to the death. These cases are dealt with by a dedicated team in the Tax Credits office.

In these circumstances HMRC send a sensitively worded letter to a personal representative of the deceased explaining why the annual declaration is required.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were in receipt of tax credits at the end of each of the last 10 fiscal years. [230926]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the average number of families benefiting from child and working tax credits are available in the HMRC publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards', for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personaltax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Child and working tax credits replaced working families' tax credit in April 2003.

Estimates of the number of recipient families of working families' tax credit are available in the HMRC publications 'Working Families' Tax Credit and Family Credit Statistics. Quarterly Enquiry', for each relevant quarter. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/wftctables/index.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints related to tax credits his Department has received from customers in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead in each year since their inception. [231105]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available at county or constituency level.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much, on average, his Department clawed back per case of tax credit overpayment in each *(a)* month of 2008-09 and *(b)* of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement; [231027]

(2) how much his Department has recovered in tax credits overpayments in each *(a)* month of 2008-09 to date and *(b)* year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [230442]

Mr. Timms: The information which can be provided on the total recovery of overpayments of 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 tax credit awards is contained in Part 2, Table 11 of the Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, in the HM Revenue and Customs 2007-08 Accounts. This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf

The additional information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients required emergency readmissions within 28 days of emergency admission to hospital in each of the last five years. [228986]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. The information that is available (from the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD) is provided for three different age groups.

Percentage of emergency readmission to any hospital in England occurring within 28 days of discharge from hospital

	Age group		
	Ages 0-15	*Ages 16-74*	*Ages 75 plus*
2006-07	9.08	8.82	13.82
2005-06	8.90	8.51	13.63
2004-05	8.58	8.14	13.05
2003-04	8.25	7.73	12.19
2002-03	8.29	7.39	11.60

Note:

Indirectly age, sex, method of admission of discharge spell, diagnosis (ICD 10 chapter/selected sub-chapters within medical specialties) and procedure (OPCS 4 chapter/selected sub-chapters within surgical specialties) standardised rates. Standardised to persons 2002-03

Source:

Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators/Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base
www.nchod.nhs.uk
or
www.nchod.nhs.uk
released October 2008

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on advertising his Department's alcohol strategy through *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [228980]

Dawn Primarolo: There has been no spending on television, radio or print media advertising for either the Government's alcohol strategy, "Safe. Sensible. Social—The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy" or the public consultation on alcohol, "Safe. Sensible. Social—Consultation on further action".

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department took to ensure neutrality in the wording of questions issued to the public in relation to his Department's recent consultation on alcohol strategy; and whether the consultation's content was tested with an independent polling organisation before being issued. [229265]

Dawn Primarolo: Prior to being issued, care was taken to ensure that the content of the consultation, including questions issued to the public, was neutral and clearly presented the facts and issues in compliance with the Cabinet Office code of practice on consultations. The consultation is not intended to be an opinion poll.

Alzheimer's Disease

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has introduced to alleviate the condition of those with Alzheimer's disease. [229867]

Phil Hope: The Department's service development guide for older people's mental health services, "Everybody's Business", describes the range of services, which ought to be in place to support people with dementia and their carers.

In addition, in August 2007, the Government announced work on the development of the first ever National Dementia Strategy and Implementation Plan. A draft strategy was issued for consultation in June 2008, and a final strategy will be published in the near future.

Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [229868]

Phil Hope: The Department does not have data for the number of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the last 10 years. However, for 2006-07 and 2007-08, the General Practitioner Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) has recorded the number of people with a diagnosis of dementia.

The figures are given in the following table. They are the totals for patients with dementia. Alzheimer's disease accounts for approximately 50-75 per cent. of cases of dementia, so the count of patients with dementia gives an indication of the number with Alzheimer's disease.

	Financial year	
	2007-08	*2006-07*
Stockton on Tees Teaching PCT[1]	745	737
Middlesbrough PCT	487	524
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	629	575
North East SHA	12,420	12,128
England	220,246	212,794

[1] This PCT was formerly known as North Tees.

Note:

We are unable to supply information for all the areas requested, as some are non-health regions. Where this occurs, we have supplied information for the health areas that best fit those requested.

Ambulance Services: Manpower

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many part-time employees work in NHS ambulance service trusts; and what percentage of all employees of these trusts this figure represents. [230004]

Ann Keen: The number of part-time employees who work in national health service ambulance trusts and the percentage figure this represents is detailed in the following table:

NHS hospital and community health services: Ambulance staff in England by nature of contract and level as at 30 September 2007

Headcount and percentages

	Full-time staff	*Part-time staff*	*Part-time staff as a percentage of total staff*
Ambulance Trust	23,829	4,425	16
Professionally qualified clinical staff	15,289	1,624	10
Manager	561	27	5
Emergency Care Practitioner	578	34	6
Ambulance Paramedic	7,411	773	9
Ambulance Technician	6,739	790	10
Support to clinical staff	8,171	2,780	25
Ambulance personnel	3,134	1,243	28
Trainee Ambulance Technician	1,080	67	6
General support	1,414	598	30
Clerical and administrative	2,396	861	26
Estates (maintenance and works)	147	11	7
NHS infrastructure support	369	21	5
Senior manager	47	1	2
Manager	322	20	6
Ambulance staff working in other trusts/PCTs	457	152	25

NHS hospital and community health services: Ambulance staff in England by nature of contract and level as at 30 September 2007

Headcount and percentages

	Full-time staff	*Part-time staff*	*Part-time staff as a percentage of total staff*
Professionally qualified clinical staff	110	5	4
Manager	9	1	10
Emergency Care Practitioner	32	2	6
Ambulance Paramedic	55	2	4
Ambulance Technician	14		n/a
Support to clinical staff	346	146	30
Ambulance personnel	135	25	16
General support	153	88	37
Clerical and administrative	50	33	40
Estates (maintenance and works)	8		n/a
NHS infrastructure support	1	1	50
Manager	1	1	50

— = Zero. n/a = Not applicable.

Note:

One full-time equivalent is currently defined as 37.5 hours. Anything less than one full-time equivalent is counted as part-time. *Data Quality* Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre Non Medical Workforce Census.

Asthma: Prescriptions

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will add asthma to the list of conditions for which patients should receive free prescriptions; and if he will make a statement. [229751]

Phil Hope: As announced in the written ministerial statement to the House on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 17WS, Professor Ian Gilmore has been asked to lead a review of prescription charges on how to implement our plans to phase in free prescriptions for those people in England with long term conditions effectively. We expect to publish the findings of this review in summer 2009.

Blood

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs has to undertake bacterial infection in blood trials as part of their comprehensive review of pathogen inactivation for blood products in 2009. [229595]

Dawn Primarolo: Information from NHS Blood and Transplant trials including published literature on pathogen inactivation will be discussed as part of the independent Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) review on options to reduce the risk of bacterial infection in blood. SaBTO does not commission research of this type. The Department in conjunction with the UK Blood Services have commissioned relevant research, trials and efficacy studies, which are due to be completed before any intervention is presented to SaBTO for their consideration and subsequently implemented.

Breast Cancer: Ethnic Groups

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when information on incidence and mortality will be collected for people with breast cancer from black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds; and if he will make a statement; [229653]

(2) what the timeframe is for evaluating and agreeing models that collect data on prevalence of people with breast cancer from black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds; and if he will make a statement. [229654]

Ann Keen: Incidence and mortality data are already collected for all patients with cancer, and compiled through the regional cancer registries. The National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) has cross-linked the most recent 10 years of complete data from hospital episode statistics (HES) to cancer registry data, which has enabled ethnicity data from HES to be assigned to cancer registry records. Using this linked repository, the NCIN will publish its first report on cancer incidence and mortality in relation to ethnicity in 2009.

The NCIN, working with Macmillan and the Thames Cancer Registry, published preliminary figures on cancer prevalence in July 2008 and a full report is due to be published in January 2009. Work to publish figures on prevalence by ethnicity will follow the NCIN report on cancer incidence and mortality in relation to ethnicity.

Breasts: Health Services

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast care nurses are working in the NHS. [230276]

Ann Keen: It is not possible to supply a figure for the number of nurses there are within the national health service working in breast care as this information is not collected centrally. A break down of nurses by area of work is shown in the following tables.

Table 3a: NHS hospital and community staff: qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff by area of work 1996 to 2007, England as at 30 September each year

												Headcount
	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All areas of work	301,253	300,467	304,563	310,142	316,752	330,535	346,537	364,692	375,371	381,257	374,538	376,737
Acute, elderly and general	160,165	159,934	161,980	165,643	170,261	177,904	187,439	201,184	203,358	205,611	204,112	205,601
Paediatric	15,520	15,341	16,266	16,689	16,922	17,640	18,014	18,437	18,917	19,178	18,634	18,923
Maternity	28,916	28,409	29,174	29,258	29,304	29,177	29,524	30,776	32,056	32,072	32,103	32,919
Psychiatry	38,827	39,109	38,141	38,999	39,529	41,539	42,654	44,728	47,390	48,553	48,478	48,499
Learning disabilities	12,105	11,111	10,736	9,923	9,497	9,776	9,550	8,950	8,656	8,824	7,583	7,618
Community services	44,914	45,898	47,601	48,972	50,481	52,401	53,814	57,588	61,559	63,257	62,343	61,997
Education staff	806	665	665	658	758	903	985	1,147	1,346	1,336	1,285	1,180

Table 3b: NHS HCHS: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff by area of work 1996 to 2007, England as at 30 September each year

												Full-time equivalent
	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All areas of work	248,070	246,011	247,238	250,651	256,276	266,171	279,287	291,925	301,877	307,744	307,447	307,628
Acute, elderly and general	130,996	130,462	131,271	133,981	138,120	144,597	154,057	162,671	166,098	168,759	169,284	168,912
Paediatric	12,591	12,590	13,084	13,383	13,644	13,997	14,546	14,825	15,258	15,412	15,302	15,416
Maternity	23,192	22,776	23,059	22,919	22,776	22,684	23,043	23,758	24,463	24,750	24,961	25,654
Psychiatry	35,444	35,296	34,627	34,974	35,804	36,973	38,176	39,383	41,585	42,529	42,716	42,602
Learning disabilities	10,714	9,883	9,329	8,775	8,398	8,440	8,323	7,824	7,526	7,367	6,767	6,593
Community services	34,399	34,422	35,299	36,058	36,871	38,221	39,302	41,850	44,989	46,917	47,338	47,448
Education staff	733	582	568	562	662	760	819	968	1,140	1,119	1,079	1,004

Notes:

1. Totals may not equal the sum of component parts due to rounding and the inclusion of unclassifiable staff.
2. More accurate validation this year means that in 2006 9,858 duplicate records were identified and removed from the non-medical census.
3. The impact of duplicates on full-time equivalent has been minimal with the removal of 507.

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast cancer patients have no access to a breast care nurse. [230277]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. It is for cancer networks to work in partnership with strategic health authorities, national health service trusts and postgraduate deaneries to put in place a sustainable process to assess, plan and review their work force needs. Commissioners should benchmark their local clinical nurse specialist (CNS) provision against similar primary care trusts and take action where the CNS work force is found to be insufficient.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* current and *(b)* capital spending took place per capita in relation to cancer treatment and services for (i) England and (ii) each primary care trust within the South West Strategic Health Authority in each financial year from 1997 to 2007. [230975]

Ann Keen: Expenditure data on cancer treatment and services by current and capital expenditure are not available.

Programme budgeting data, available for financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07, show total cancer expenditure at England and primary care trust level for the South West strategic health authority region. These are provided in the following tables.

Gross expenditure per capita on cancers and tumours in England

Financial year	*Spend per capita (£)*
2003-04	68.85
2004-05	76.73
2005-06	87.50
2006-07	86.23

Note:

Figures have been calculated using expenditure figures as published in the Department of Health resource accounts.

Expenditure per capita on cancers and tumours by South West region PCT for financial years 2003-04 to 2005-06

	Spend per capita (£)		
PCT	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bath and North East Somerset	92.11	99.42	97.25
Bristol North	72.51	76.88	87.02
Bristol South and West	94.94	91.59	87.69
Cheltenham and Tewkesbury	81.58	61.80	122.01

Expenditure per capita on cancers and tumours by South West region PCT for financial years 2003-04 to 2005-06

	Spend per capita (£)		
PCT	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Cotswold and Vale	90.97	117.94	105.30
Kennet and North Wilts	68.28	74.81	86.80
North Somerset	71.75	82.51	110.19
South Gloucestershire	72.39	58.8	98.33
South Wiltshire	74.98	90.54	100.02
Swindon	55.97	67.60	74.83
West Gloucestershire	82.95	106.71	104.92
West Wiltshire	56.72	64.88	89.09
Bournemouth	74.97	77.01	88.10
Mendip	59.58	76.58	89.65
North Dorset	67.59	69.98	83.74
Poole	105.71	81.58	87.92
Somerset Coast	64.54	77.27	95.34
South and East Dorset	93.70	89.82	96.30
South Somerset	89.50	98.97	85.31
South West Dorset	69.73	82.09	91.69
Taunton Deane	68.78	90.27	88.93
Central Cornwall	81.95	96.34	110.91
East Devon	87.67	117.02	113.42
Exeter	82.02	59.13	100.82
Mid Devon	71.74	96.82	114.13
North and East Cornwall	67.07	83.77	95.89
North Devon	66.57	74.43	102.02
Plymouth	69.40	75.24	87.25
South Hams and West Devon	79.19	83.98	107.53
Teignbridge	84.71	89.78	100.56
Torbay	91.28	110.18	105.62
West of Cornwall	75.66	83.35	87.94

Notes:

1. With the exception of 2003-04 figures, all figures have been calculated using PCT expenditure on own population. Expenditure figures on PCT's own population are not available for 2003-04, therefore net expenditure values have been used instead.

2. Local population figures used to calculate per capita expenditure have been weighted to account for age, sex and need.

South West strategic health authority PCT data for financial year 2006-07 are presented separately in the following table, as they are not directly comparable due to a PCT reconfiguration in 2006.

Expenditure per capita on cancers and tumours by South West region PCTs for financial year 2006-07

PCT	*Spend per capita (£)*
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	87.08
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	116.72
Bristol Teaching PCT	86.87
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	68.39
Devon PCT	78.71
Dorset PCT	79.12
Gloucestershire PCT	78.55
North Somerset PCT	98.14
Plymouth Teaching PCT	78.65
Somerset PCT	82.62
South Gloucestershire PCT	75.15
Swindon PCT	83.86
Torbay Care Trust	104.01
Wiltshire PCT	79.86

Notes:

1. Figures have been calculated using PCT expenditure on own population.

2. Local population figures have been weighted to account for age, sex and need.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer networks have been established with NHS support; where each such network is based; and what the size of population covered by each network is. [231225]

Ann Keen: The following table lists the 30 current cancer networks, their estimated populations and the location of their central offices, as at 14 January 2008.

Cancer network (location of central office)	*Estimated population*
Lancashire and South Cumbria (Preston)	1,513,734
Greater Manchester and Cheshire (Manchester)	3,026,670
Merseyside and Cheshire (Birkenhead)	2,013,727
Yorkshire (Harrogate)	2,636,000
Humber and Yorkshire Coast (Hull)	1,053,083
North Trent (Sheffield)	1,772,905
Pan Birmingham (Birmingham)	1,902,118
Arden (Coventry)	989,922
Mid Trent (Nottingham)	1,622,313
Derby/Burton (Derby)	694,250
Leicestershire, Northants and Rutland (Enderby)	1,612,309
Mount Vernon (St. Albans)	1,237,808
West London	1,829,803
North London	1,513,763
North East London	1,535,083
South East London	1,527,993
South West London	1,555,376
Peninsula (Partington)	1,632,990
Dorset (Ferndown)	698,684
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire (Bristol)	1,879,525
3 Counties (Cheltenham)	1,035,537
Thames Valley (Oxford)	2,328,161
Central South Coast (Southampton)	1,950,651
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire (Guildford)	1,193,245
Sussex (Lewes)	1,154,727
Kent and Medway (Aylesford)	1,624,863
Greater Midlands (Wolverhampton)	1,882,323
North of England (Newcastle upon Tyne)	2,995,948
Anglia (Newmarket)	2,667,897
Essex (Colchester)	1,384,217

Source:

National Cancer Intelligence Network.

Cancer: Surgery

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's policy is on the use of Cyberknife robotic radio surgery for cancer patients. [230854]

Ann Keen: Cyberknife technology has yet to be evaluated in a United Kingdom clinical setting and so is not currently available as a standard treatment on the national health service.

It is for local primary care trusts (PCTs) to use the funds allocated to them to meet the health care needs of their local populations. A consultant or clinician may recommend the use of Cyberknife for the treatment of cancer but it would be for the PCT to agree to supply the treatment at NHS expense.

Care Homes: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department hold on rates of healthcare-associated infections in care homes. [229965]

Ann Keen: Information on rates of health care associated infections in care homes is not collected centrally.

Care Homes: Inspections

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing homes have been inspected in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [229831]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the numbers of nursing homes inspected in South Tyneside and England in each year since 2003-04 are as shown in the table. CSCI does not collect data for Tyne and Wear, which is not a council with adult social services responsibility area.

Information for the period between 2000 and that shown in the table is not held centrally. CSCI only has inspection records from the time of the establishment of its predecessor, the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC), in 2002. During the first months of NCSC's existence, there was a delay in registering some homes, so complete data for 2002-03 are not available.

Number of nursing homes subject to inspection by CSCI in South Tyneside and England per year

Year ending 31 March	*South Tyneside*	*England*
2004	12	4,141
2005	13	4,108
2006	12	4,123
2007	12	4,119
2008	12	4,153

Source:

CSCI registration and inspection database, static data cut 2 May 2008.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing homes inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and (c) England received a (i) 0 star rating (poor), (ii) 1 star rating (adequate), (iii) 2 star rating (good) and (iv) 3 star rating (excellent) in each year since 2000.[1] [229952]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it can only provide the information requested from May 2008, when the star rating system was launched.

The following tables show star ratings for nursing homes in South Tyneside and England. CSCI does not collect data for Tyne and Wear, which is not a council with adult social services responsibility area.

1. Star ratings of nursing homes in South Tyneside

	Number of homes	
	8 May 2008	*13 October 2008*
0 stars (poor)	1	5
1 star (adequate)	4	4
2 stars (good)	6	2
3 stars (excellent)	1	2
Total	12	13

2. Star ratings of nursing homes in England

	Number of homes	
	8 May 2008	*13 October 2008*
0 stars (poor)	181	131
1 star (adequate)	1,128	1,012
2 stars (good)	2,130	2,306
3 stars (excellent)	548	590
Not yet rated	125	144
Rating suspended	8	10
Total	4,120	4,193

Source:

CSCI Registration and Inspection database, 8 May 2008 and 13 October 2008 static cuts.

Childbirth

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines are in place in the NHS for offering *(a)* home births and *(b)* natural births to expectant mothers. [229616]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published intrapartum care guidelines in September 2007, which provide guidance on the information that women should receive on planning the place of birth.

"Maternity Matters: Choice, Access and Continuity of Care in a Safe Service", which the Department published in April 2007, sets out guidelines on the choices that will be available to expectant mothers. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Community Care: Elderly

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many older people were supported to live at home per 1,000 people in the year to 31 March 2008. [230013]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes data on the number of people receiving community based care which is either partly or wholly funded by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) in England.

125.6 per 1,000 of the population of people aged 65 and over were receiving community-based care from CASSRs from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Source:

Provisional data from the P2f pro forma of the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care collection. Validated national level data are expected to be available in December 2008.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of 65 years were supported to live at home in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority area in each of the last five years. [229244]

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[1] *[Official Report, 20 November 2008, Vol. 483, c. 5MC.]*

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes data on the number of people receiving community based care which is either partly or wholly funded by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs). Data are not collected centrally at strategic health authority level.

Information is shown in the following tables. Table 1 shows the number of people aged 65 and over receiving community-based care from CASSRs at 31 March 2004. Table 2 shows the same data for 31 March 2005 to 2008. Guidance relating to clients receiving services was restated for 2004-05 to only include clients who are assessed by social services and who have a care plan. In previous years, some councils included clients receiving services from grant-funded organisations without a community care assessment. Therefore data for 2004-05 onwards are not comparable with earlier data. Additional clarification was also given on the recording of some types of services. These amendments mainly affect clients receiving community-based services.

Table 1: Total number of clients in England receiving community-based services at 31 March

	Number
2004	662,000

Table 2: Total number of clients in England receiving community-based services at 31 March

	Number
2005	642,000
2006	652,000
2007	647,000
2008	[1]661,000

[1] 2008 figures are provisional. Fully validated data will be available in February 2009.

Notes:

1. The England total is an estimate based on actual figures.
2. Figures are rounded.

Source:

RAP proforma P2s

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many detained mental health patients were absent without leave in each of the last five years. [229276]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected by the Department.

Dental Services: Internet

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of NHS dental practices in England that make use of the internet in providing care. [229645]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Dental Services: South West

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of dental patients were treated *(a)* by the NHS and *(b)* privately in (i) England and (ii) each primary care trust within the South West Strategic Health Authority in each financial year from 1997 to 2007. [230977]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on patients treated privately is not collected.

The number of patients registered with an NHS dentist as a proportion of the population, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in annex B of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA) where appropriate.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England, over the previous 24-month period, as a percentage of the population is available in table C2 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006/07" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March, 2006 and 2007. This information is provided by SHA and by PCT.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The Dental Services Division (DSD) of the NHS Business Services Authority has recently issued patients seen information at PCT level. However, this was for management purposes. PCTs have recently raised some issues which suggest that the way in which patients are allocated to PCTs across the various quarters needs to be reviewed. This means that sub-national information on patients seen was not included in the "Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report, published by the NHS Information Centre on 21 August 2008. The DSD has confirmed that this issue could only have a minimal impact on the national figures. They were therefore labelled as provisional pending the review. An update will be provided in the "Dental Statistics for England: 2008/09 Q1" report in November 2008.

Dispensing Appliance Contractors

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dispensing appliance contractors have been prosecuted for fraudulent use of dispensing licences in the last five years; and how many of those prosecutions related to the wrongful use of multiple licences for financial benefit. [230102]

Phil Hope: All cases dealt with by the national health service counter fraud service (CFS) have the potential to result in criminal prosecution. The CFS also seeks civil recovery of losses to the NHS and investigation costs, as well as disciplinary sanctions before the appropriate regulatory or disciplinary body.

No pharmaceutical appliance contractors have been prosecuted in relation to dispensing or multiple licences in the last five years.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many dispensing appliance contractors dispense appliances above the level of the infrastructure payment cap of 50,000 proposed by his Department; and to how many patients these contractors provide services; [230131]

(2) how many *(a)* industry representatives, *(b)* patient groups and *(c)* NHS organisations responded to the June 2008 consultation on changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and what plans he has to publish the results of the consultation; [230132]

(3) what assessment he has made of the advantages and disadvantages for dispensing appliance contractors with multiple dispensing licences under *(a)* the current on-cost system and *(b)* the system of remuneration proposed by his Department in its consultation on the provision of appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff; [230216]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 434W, on incontinence: medical equipment, for what reason it is proposed to cap the infrastructure payment for Part IX-related services at 50,000 prescription items; [230217]

(5) pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 434W, on incontinence: medical equipment, how many respondents to his Department's previous consultations on his Department's proposals for provision of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff *(a)* requested a cap at 50,000 prescription items and *(b)* advocated the removal of any cap. [230218]

Phil Hope: In addition to a number of proposals relating to payment by way of fees for specific services which patients will receive directly—such as home delivery—the Department's latest consultation "Proposed new arrangement under Part IX for the provision of stoma and urology appliances and related services in primary care" (which has already been placed in the Library) proposed an infrastructure payment which is designed to cover requirements that are not directly linked to dispensing a prescription item for instance, operating within a clinical governance framework. It was proposed that the payment should be banded and capped according to the number of stoma and urology items dispensed on a monthly basis. The highest band was 30,000-50,000 items and two dispensing appliance contractors dispense more than 50,000 prescription items per month. The Department is now analysing responses to the consultation, including views on the proposed cap to the infrastructure payment.

About 450,000 people use stoma and urology appliances. Under the current arrangements that primary care trusts have with dispensing appliance contractors (DACs) there is no requirement for them to provide patient numbers. However, in responding to the Department's latest proposals some DACs have provided specific numbers in support of their views.

Responses to the June consultation were received from:

41 industry representatives
13 patient groups
27 NHS organisations

Control of entry was outside the scope of the June consultation. However, some assessment of the implications of the proposed remuneration system for appliance contractors with multiple dispensing licences has been made in the impact assessment—small firms sections—to illustrate the impact of different licence arrangements on the different possible remunerations (pages 26, 27).

In the September 2007 consultation, the infrastructure payment cap was set at 35,000 part IX items dispensed per month. This cap was raised to 50,000 items per month in the June 2008 consultation.

The proposal took account of views expressed by interested parties in response to the September 2007 consultation that:

the level of infrastructure payment proposed could disrupt ongoing patient care;

the banded structure for the infrastructure payment would affect individual contractors in a different way, inadvertently favouring some providers over others; and

the volume cap proposed was too low and disadvantaged companies dispensing a high number of part IX prescription items to an excessive extent.

Views were sought on the new proposals and the Department is in the process of analysing responses.

140 responses were received to the September 2007 consultation. Of these:

none requested a cap of 50,000 prescription items; and

two respondents advocated the removal of the cap.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average duration was of methadone treatment programmes in the latest period for which figures are available. [229664]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse collects data on local services via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). The NDTMS does not record the specific substitute drug a drug misuser in treatment is prescribed and while the majority of clients will have received methadone, clients' treatment programmes/regimes may have included buprenorphine and diamorphine.

The average length of each prescribing intervention in 2007-08 was 338 days.

Health Centres

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations his Department has received from general practitioners requesting a further consultation in respect of proposals to establish polyclinics. [227822]

Ann Keen: The Department has run a search of its database, which shows that we have received in excess of 1,000 letters on the subject of Polyclinics. However, due to the way data are collected it is not possible to provide the number of letters received from general practitioners.

Health Professions: Fraud

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with medical qualifications later discovered to be fake have been employed in a clinical capacity by the NHS since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [230566]

Ann Keen: I understand from the General Medical Council that they are aware of four cases of people with medical qualifications later discovered to be fake, who have been employed in a clinical capacity by the national health service since 2000.

Hospital Beds

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of introducing single rooms for all NHS patients. [227508]

Ann Keen: Each trust makes an informed choice regarding the appropriate percentage of single room provision based on practical considerations such as site restrictions, affordability as well as clinical and operational limitations. In some cases, providing single rooms for all patients may not be clinically appropriate. Single room accommodation can be introduced through new building or changing existing accommodation and will depend on the environmental and financial situation of the organisation.

The cost of introducing single rooms for all patients depends on local decisions and an estimate for providing single rooms for all national health service patients cannot be accurately provided. However, an estimate of £22.9 billion (at today's prices) was made by the NHS Estates Agency in 2004 as the cost of providing 100 per cent. single rooms across the NHS excluding mental health accommodation.

The Department's guidance for the provision of single rooms is that in new hospital developments the aim should be 50 per cent. provision, but should not fall below 20 per cent. and must be a higher percentage than the facilities they are replacing. The policy and design guidance for the provision of single rooms in mental health accommodation is 100 per cent.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish his Department's report on the effectiveness of its deep cleaning exercise conducted in 2007-08. [228277]

Ann Keen: The Department's report highlighting good practice examples arising from the deep clean programme will be published shortly.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential merits of providing personal antimicrobial products for hospital patients as a means of combating healthcare-associated infections; and if he will make a statement. [229463]

Ann Keen: Our strategy 'Clean Safe Care' draws together the measures required to control infections. Generally, normal soap and toiletries are adequate for patients' personal hygiene during their hospital stay. If decolonisation of a patient is necessary, hospitals will provide specialist soap and shampoo.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will increase the additional dispensing fee under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for single line items; and if he will make a statement; [231313]

(2) how many NHS patients receive intermittent catheters through a home delivery service; and if he will make a statement. [231314]

Phil Hope: No decisions have been made regarding the additional dispensing fee, as the Department is still in the process of analysing responses to the consultation entitled 'Proposed New Arrangements Under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the Provision of Stoma and Urology Appliances—and Related Services—in Primary Care' June 2008, that closed in September 2008. A copy of this consultation has already been placed in the Library.

About 450,000 people use stoma and urology appliances. Under the current arrangements that primary care trusts have with dispensing appliance contractors (DACs) there is no requirement for them to provide patient numbers. However, in responding to the Department's latest proposals some DACs have provided specific numbers in support of their views.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department plans to spend in the current financial year on *(a)* radio advertising to encourage the public to have an influenza vaccination and *(b)* fees to Stephen Fry for voicing such radio advertisements. [229894]

Dawn Primarolo: The radio media costs of the influenza vaccination campaign in financial year 2008-09 are expected to be £383,000.

We are unable to provide Stephen Fry's precise fee for the flu immunisation radio campaign. This is because Mr. Fry's fee was specifically negotiated by the Central Office of Information with his agent on behalf of Department, and disclosure would represent a breach of commercial in confidence.

The total production and playout costs for the three radio advertisements being used for the campaign were £24,900 including Mr. Fry's fee.

Maternity Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* consultant-led and *(b)* midwife-led maternity units there were in England in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [229968]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Leyton and Wanstead (Harry Cohen) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1176W.

Maternity Services: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many maternity care assistants there were in England in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available, broken down by NHS trust. [229967]

Ann Keen: We do not collect the number of national health service maternity care assistants centrally. However, the number of unqualified maternity service staff employed in England is detailed in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: unqualified maternity service staff in England by strategic health authority area and organisation as at 30 September

headcount

	Total unqualified maternity services staff	*Nursery nurse*	*Nursing assistant/auxiliary*	*Healthcare assistant*	*Support worker*
England	7,724	440	3,639	2,704	941
North East Strategic Health Authority	355	19	96	176	64
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	19	0	1	18	0
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	39	0	32	7	0
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	23	0	0	23	0
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	7	0	0	0	7
Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust	101	0	7	71	23
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	74	3	24	16	31
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	20	0	20	0	0
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	72	16	12	41	3
North West Strategic Health Authority	1,111	61	601	323	126
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	25	0	25	0	0
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	45	1	44	0	0
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	67	12	21	30	4
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	61	13	0	47	1
East Cheshire NHS Trust	29	6	21	0	2
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	54	3	50	0	1
Halton and St. Helens PCT	1	0	1	0	0
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	38	2	5	29	2
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	120	0	0	93	27
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust	60	0	60	0	0
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	51	2	16	19	14
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	26	0	7	19	0
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	108	4	65	30	9
Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	72	7	43	9	13
South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust	50	0	18	22	10
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	28	0	28	0	0
St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	22	2	20	0	0
Stockport NHS Trust	43	2	37	4	0
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	40	0	35	0	5
The Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust	35	6	6	21	2
The Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	82	1	56	0	25
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	11	0	8	0	3
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	43	0	35	0	8
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	763	32	428	230	73
Airedale NHS Trust	32	0	10	22	0
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	17	0	6	11	0
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	46	0	16	27	3
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	59	1	53	0	5
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust	22	1	20	1	0
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	14	1	8	5	0
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	83	0	63	0	20
Kirklees PCT	3	2	1	0	0
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	98	7	1	78	12
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	98	8	71	0	19
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	70	0	18	52	0
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	20	0	9	11	0
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	119	5	108	0	6

NHS hospital and community health services: unqualified maternity service staff in England by strategic health authority area and organisation as at 30 September

headcount

	Total unqualified maternity services staff	*Nursery nurse*	*Nursing assistant/ auxiliary*	*Healthcare assistant*	*Support worker*
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	44	2	34	0	8
York Hospitals NHS Trust	38	5	10	23	0
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	590	11	329	128	122
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	28	0	28	0	0
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	75	0	0	45	30
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	58	0	12	17	29
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	64	2	0	35	27
Nottingham City PCT	1	0	0	0	1
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	73	0	56	17	0
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust	49	0	48	0	1
The United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	76	0	56	14	6
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	166	9	129	0	28
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	803	70	338	311	84
Birmingham East and North PCT	1	1	0	0	0
Birmingham Women's Healthcare NHS Trust	113	0	113	0	0
Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	48	0	0	35	13
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	49	5	1	28	15
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	103	6	97	0	0
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	22	3	16	0	3
Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	24	1	0	9	14
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	44	6	27	11	0
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	67	0	18	32	17
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	23	7	16	0	0
The George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	22	0	19	0	3
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	41	0	29	0	12
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	71	5	1	65	0
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	65	13	0	48	4
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	39	5	1	33	0
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	71	18	0	50	3
East of England Strategic Health Authority	870	71	449	282	68
Basildon and Thurrock General Hospital NHS Trust	76	6	15	52	3
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	35	1	33	0	1
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	63	5	6	52	0
Cambridgeshire PCT	9	3	0	0	6
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	63	0	63	0	0
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	43	0	43	0	0
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	28	0	28	0	0
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	62	14	1	35	12
James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	45	6	39	0	0
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	72	3	7	53	9
Luton PCT	10	0	10	0	0
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	41	0	5	0	36
Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust	50	5	45	0	0
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39	24	14	0	1
Southend Hospital NHS Trust	31	0	0	31	0
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	67	0	67	0	0
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	45	4	41	0	0
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	63	0	4	59	0
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	28	0	28	0	0
London Strategic Health Authority	1,147	53	523	496	75
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	70	0	21	49	0
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	67	2	65	0	0
Barts and the London NHS Trust	24	0	24	0	0
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	15	0	0	13	2
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	52	4	0	36	12

NHS Hospital and community health services: unqualified maternity service staff in England by strategic health authority area and organisation as at 30 September

headcount

	Total unqualified maternity services staff	*Nursery nurse*	*Nursing assistant/ auxiliary*	*Healthcare assistant*	*Support worker*
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	14	2	3	9	0
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	63	7	45	4	7
Guys and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	74	0	63	11	0
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	61	0	56	0	5
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	56	0	15	41	0
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	44	2	5	27	10
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	42	0	0	42	0
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	62	16	4	37	5
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	33	3	30	0	0
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	77	0	73	0	4
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	24	3	0	3	18
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	26	0	3	23	0
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	29	0	2	26	1
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	34	4	0	26	4
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	23	2	9	12	0
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	48	0	48	0	0
St Mary's NHS Trust	39	0	0	35	4
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	28	0	8	20	0
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	37	4	8	25	
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	44	4	1	37	2
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	20	0	0	20	0
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	41	0	40	0	1
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	659	42	291	141	185
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	54	4	33	5	12
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	79	0	30	49	0
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	26	0	0	20	6
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	93	0	0	6	87
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	50	2	42	0	6
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	59	0	0	3	56
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	74	13	22	35	4
Medway NHS Trust	58	0	58	0	0
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	48	21	26	1	0
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	30	0	6	22	2
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	52	2	41	0	9
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	36	0	33	0	3
South Central Strategic Health Authority	659	38	202	399	20
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	64	0	7	57	0
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	40	5	0	35	0
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	39	9	20	8	2
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	43	0	24	7	12
North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	31	3	1	26	1
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	124	0	0	123	1
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	91	0	91	0	0
Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust	95	0	0	95	0
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	98	21	40	33	4
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	34	0	19	15	0
South West Strategic Health Authority	767	43	382	218	124
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	10	0	10	0	0
Devon PCT	13	0	0	13	0
East Somerset NHS Trust	23	9	1	13	0
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	59	0	45	14	0
Gloucestershire PCT	12	0	9	0	3
North Bristol NHS Trust	50	0	0	41	9
North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	21	0	21	0	0

NHS hospital and community health services: unqualified maternity service staff in England by strategic health authority area and organisation as at 30 September

headcount

	Total unqualified maternity services staff	*Nursery nurse*	*Nursing assistant/ auxiliary*	*Healthcare assistant*	*Support worker*
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	60	3	0	57	0
Poole Hospital NHS Trust	64	10	54	0	0
Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	11	0	11	0	0
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	48	0	0	37	11
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	23	0	23	0	0
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	11	11	0	0	0
Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust	3	0	3	0	0
South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	27	0	22	5	0
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	16	0	16	0	0
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	71	2	0	38	31
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	149	8	71	0	70
West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	29	0	29	0	0
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	10	0	10	0	0
Wiltshire PCT	57	0	57	0	0

Data quality:

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre Non Medical Workforce Census

Midwives: Finance

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to providing support for participants who commenced re-training under the Return to Practice Programme for midwives in the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [227772]

Ann Keen: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for allocating resources from education and training funding to support local initiatives such as return to practice programmes for professional staff. The Department has provided support and funding to SHAs for a programme of work, to deliver expansion in midwifery capacity, as announced in February. This includes supporting midwives through return to practice, where this is part of the local recruitment programme.

SHAs are managing return to practice programmes locally and have been allocated £1.5 million in 2008 or £3,000 per midwife. The £3,000 is an approximate cost per midwife to provide free training, and to support costs such as for childcare and travel.

Midwives: Manpower

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed in the NHS in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* England in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [229615]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service midwives employed in Bolton and England in each of the last five years is detailed in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in England, the North West Strategic Health Authority area and the Royal Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
England					
Qualified maternity services staff	30,776	32,056	32,072	32,103	32,919
Of which:					
Qualified midwives	23,941	24,844	24,808	24,469	25,093
North West Strategic Health Authority area					
Qualified maternity services staff	4,919	5,174	5,055	5,164	5,069
Of which:					
Qualified midwives	3,798	4,049	3,876	3,949	4,001
Royal Bolton Hospitals Foundation Trust					
Qualified maternity services staff	243	237	238	229	230

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in England, the North West Strategic Health Authority area and the Royal Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September each specified year

					Headcount
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Of which					
Qualified midwives	192	185	189	183	165

[1] Qualified midwife figures have fallen in the trust due to data cleansing within the maternity services area of work. As a result of this, a number of nurse managers have now been correctly coded.

Note:

Data quality

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre Non Medical Workforce Census

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community midwives were employed in each strategic health authority region in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* 2007. [231055]

Ann Keen: The information requested on community midwives cannot be supplied as it is not collected centrally.

The following table details the total number of midwives employed in each strategic health authority for the three years requested.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in England by Strategic Health Authority area as at 30 September each specified year

			Headcount
	1997	*2002*	*2007*
England	22,385	23,249	25,093
North East Strategic Health Authority area	1,224	1,241	1,288
North West Strategic Health Authority area	3,864	3,833	4,010
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	2,393	2,321	2,449
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	1,591	1,697	1,745
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	2,619	2,625	2,861
East of England Strategic Health Authority area	1,942	2,159	2,407
London Strategic Health Authority area	3,370	3,601	4,407
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	1,431	1,680	1,820
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	1,647	1,734	1,677
South West Strategic Health Authority area	2,304	2,358	2,429

Source:

The Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in England by Strategic Health Authority area as at 30 September each specified year

											Full-time equivalent
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	18,053	18,168	17,876	17,662	18,048	18,119	18,444	18,854	18,949	18,862	19,298
North East Strategic Health Authority area	1,008	944	898	901	1,043	993	989	1,018	1,011	1,003	1,025
North West Strategic Health Authority area	3,160	3,044	3,035	2,994	3,068	3,069	3,049	3,252	3,094	3,138	3,111
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	1,973	1,962	1,832	1,845	1,867	1,909	1,948	2,025	2,047	1,906	1,942
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	1,292	1,355	1,384	1,386	1,389	1,307	1,331	1,315	1,310	1,294	1,322
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	2,111	2,240	2,172	2,103	2,088	2,091	2,170	2,180	2,123	2,092	2,171
East of England Strategic Health Authority area	1,517	1,600	1,620	1,612	1,538	1,630	1,646	1,644	1,725	1,742	1,806
London Strategic Health Authority area	2,809	2,777	2,789	2,673	2,813	2,812	3,026	3,040	3,326	3,442	3,499
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	1,085	1,131	1,063	1,108	1,188	1,264	1,254	1,312	1,320	1,325	1,382

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in England by Strategic Health Authority area as at 30 September each specified year

											Full-time equivalent
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	1,280	1,308	1,252	1,239	1,244	1,258	1,228	1,248	1,187	1,145	1,255
South West Strategic Health Authority area	1,818	1,807	1,832	1,801	1,809	1,785	1,802	1,821	1,806	1,774	1,786

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number
Source:
The information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Midwives: Redundancy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS midwives have received redundancy notices in *(a)* Peterborough, *(b)* Cambridge and *(c)* England in the last two years. [229453]

Ann Keen: There have been no compulsory redundancies for national health service midwives in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire in the last two years. The total number of NHS midwives to receive compulsory redundancy notices in the last two years in England is listed in the following table:

Period	*Total number of compulsory redundancies for midwives*	*Total number of compulsory redundancies (all groups)*
2006-07	7	2,330
2007-08	1	2,223

Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he made of the effectiveness of the risk sharing scheme for the provision of multiple sclerosis disease modifying drugs; what value for money assessment he has made of the risk sharing scheme since its inception; when he will make available the full ScHARR report, including Annex C, as requested by the Health Select Committee in 2007; what the cost of the scheme has been since its inception; what the cost of *(a)* providing Avonex, Beteferon, Copaxone and Rebif and *(b)* the administration of the scheme by the MS Trust has been; and if he will make a statement. [229560]

Ann Keen: The risk-sharing scheme for disease modifying drugs for multiple sclerosis is a unique UK-wide programme set up to allow access to treatment through the national health service in a cost-effective manner. Over 5,000 patients are routinely monitored to assess their progress on treatment and it is estimated that, overall, some 10,000 patients are being treated with these drugs. The first two-year analysis of scheme data has been undertaken and it is planned to publish the results in a peer-reviewed medical journal. The independent Scientific Advisory Group, which advises the study, is considering how to modify the scheme in time for the next two-year analysis due in 2009. We hope then to determine reliably whether the drugs at current prices represent value for money for the NHS. The Health Select Committee was sent, in confidence, a full copy of the report from Sheffield's School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR) earlier this year.

We estimate that the costs incurred since the scheme's inception are in the order of £300 million. This figure is made up of £200,000 a year representing the Department's 20 per cent. share of running the contract; an average £35,000 a year to meet the Multiple Sclerosis Trust's administration costs for the scheme and drug costs of around £50 million a year.

NHS: Manpower

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed in the National Health Service in 2007, expressed on *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent basis. [230908]

Ann Keen: The number of people employed in the national health service in 2007 is given in the following table.

	Number of people
Total employed staff in 2007	1,331,109
Total employed staff in 2007 (full-time equivalent)	1,089,436

NHS: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid *(a)* by (i) employees and (ii) employers into and *(b)* to those receiving pensions payments from the National Health Service Pension Scheme in each of the last five years. [229431]

Ann Keen: The information requested for England and Wales is given in the following table.

					£000
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total pensions paid to members and dependants	3,031,811	3,207,040	3,412,532	3,777,414	4,294,797
Employer contributions	1,632,536	3,568,337	3,890,167	4,301,122	4,579,685
Employee contributions (including added years)	1,509,710	1,645,090	1,818,140	1,995,282	2,127,235

£000

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total contributions paid	3,142,246	5,233,427	5,708,307	6,296,404	6,706,920

Note:
Total pensions paid to members and dependants includes pensions and lump sums paid to members, and pensions paid to widows and dependants together with death gratuities.
Source:
NHS Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many part-time employees of NHS ambulance service trusts and their predecessors who were excluded from the NHS pension scheme before 1999 were women; [229999]

(2) how many part-time employees of NHS ambulance service trusts and their predecessors were not included in the NHS pension scheme in each year prior to 1999 for which figures are available. [230001]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place for part-time NHS employees to buy back foregone pension contributions; and if he will make a statement. [230000]

Ann Keen: Individuals who had been excluded from membership of the scheme prior to 1 April 1991 and wishing to make a claim were required to do so through an employment tribunal. Under employment tribunal rules claims had to be made while still working for that employer or within six months of the end of the employment relationship. Those successful in this process pay the contributions that are due to the scheme for the excluded period and their membership for this period is reinstated.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what pension entitlements are provided to *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employees of NHS ambulance service trusts. [230002]

Ann Keen: The NHS Pension Scheme is a final salary pension scheme, which offers a defined package of benefits to scheme members in accordance with the scheme regulations. NHS ambulance staff, like other national health service employees enjoy a benefit package which includes:

- index linked retirement benefits
- life assurance and family benefits
- redundancy benefits
- ill health retirement benefits

The aforementioned benefits are subject to the scheme member meeting relevant qualifying criteria set out in the scheme regulations. Full-time and part-time staff have the same benefits. The membership of part time staff is scaled according to the hours worked.

NHS: Wards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* his Department's officials and *(b)* NHS officials have been instructed to review the cost to the public purse of providing more single rooms within the NHS estate since 27 September 2008. [229048]

Ann Keen: In October 2008 the Department's officials reported a capital cost estimate of about £9.51 billion (at Quarter 1 2008 prices) for providing 45,000 more single rooms, £211,401 per bed, while maintaining the existing bed capacity of the national health service estate. This costing was based on standard NHS costing methodologies.

NHS organisations make decisions locally based on practical considerations such as site restrictions, affordability as well as clinical and operational limitations. Any national estimate must therefore make assumptions regarding the methods likely to be used for providing more single rooms and the likely cost effects of such methods.

NHS officials have not been instructed by the Department to review the cost to the public purse of providing more single rooms within the NHS estate.

Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1466W, on nurses, (1) when his Department last issued guidance on the modern matrons programme; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that guidance; [229835]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to ensure *(a)* a consistent definition of the role of and *(b)* consistent training for modern matrons across each NHS trust. [230015]

Ann Keen: "A Matron's Charter: An action plan for cleaner hospitals" was published in October 2004. The document has already been placed in the Library.

The definition of modern matrons was provided in the "NHS Plan" and detailed guidance was given in Health Service Circular 2001/010 "Implementing the NHS Plan: Modern Matrons: strengthening the role of ward sisters and introducing senior sisters". Education and training of modern matrons is the responsibility of their employers in light of local priorities and local assessment of training needs.

Osteoporosis

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve the performance of healthcare professionals in the early diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis. [227909]

Phil Hope: A directed enhanced service (DES) for osteoporosis has been agreed for 2008-09 and 2009-10, which will encourage general practices to diagnose and prescribe appropriate secondary prevention for patients with osteoporosis. This will help improve patient care by ensuring that specific patient groups are managed appropriately and in accordance with existing guidance published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Additionally, as part of the prevention package for older people, we intend to establish an expert group, who will develop a commissioning framework, which will help the national health service better provide services for falls, fractures and osteoporosis. The Department has started the process of engagement with key stakeholders from the NHS, social care and the third and private sector to develop the detail of the package, which it expects to publish by March 2009.

The Department will also continue to review the evidence and opportunity for improved services in this area.

Perinatal Mortality

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of stillbirths. [231267]

Ann Keen: The Department is committed to improving the outcomes for babies and therefore supports the Confidential Enquiry for Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH). CEMACH published their report "Perinatal Mortality 2006—England Wales and Northern Ireland", in May 2008 and found a continuing decline in the overall neonatal mortality rate and in the stillbirth, perinatal and neonatal mortality rates in multiple pregnancies. This report has already been placed in the Library.

The Department has also introduced a new maternity indicator to measure the percentage of women who have seen a midwife or a maternity health care professional for a health and social care assessment of needs, risk and choices by 12 completed weeks of pregnancy. This will improve early access to maternity care and outcomes for mothers and babies as risks will be identified early and an individualised plan of care developed.

Pregnant Women: Medical Treatments

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when and for what reason the decision was taken to withdraw diethylstilboestrol as a treatment for pregnant women; [229400]

(2) what research conducted overseas on the long-term effects of taking diethylstilboestrol on *(a)* women and *(b)* their children his Department has evaluated; [229401]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to identify and locate *(a)* women who were prescribed diethylstilboestrol and *(b)* the children of such women. [229402]

Ann Keen: Diethylstilboestrol (DES) is an oestrogenic hormone formerly used in the treatment of threatened miscarriage.

In 1953 a large clinical trial in the United States showed no beneficial effect of DES on pregnancy outcome. In 1973, the UK's Committee on Safety of Medicine (CSM) (now the Commission on Human Medicines) considered data from a US study that identified an association between the development of clear-cell adenocarcinoma of the vagina/cervix in the daughters of women exposed to DES during pregnancy. On the basis of the lack of benefit and evidence of harm the CSM wrote to all doctors in the UK with the recommendation that DES should no longer be used in pregnancy.

The Department is aware of several overseas studies, including a number in the United States (where diethystilboestrol was used extensively), which have investigated the long-term effects of diethystilboestrol on women who took it during pregnancy. A large ongoing study conducted by the National Institute of Cancer in the United States is investigating the risks of DES to children who were exposed in utero. The Department has not formally evaluated these studies.

The Department has in the past sought advice on this issue from the Advisory Committee for Cervical Screening. On the basis of this advice, the Department is of the view that a public education campaign would not be helpful. Many of the women at risk are not aware they or their mothers received DES. Proactively campaigning to find these women would create further anxiety.

Sepsis

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of sepsis were recorded in England in each year since 2005. [229597]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Although the Health Protection Agency collects information on blood stream infections these data do not provide a complete picture as sepsis is a clinical condition caused by a range of bacteria that are manifest as localised infections as well as blood stream infections.

Social Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1468W, on social services, what assessment he has made of the likely financial situation of organisations responsible for adult social care provision in each year from 2012 to 2041 for which figures are available. [229836]

Phil Hope: The projected funding gap for 2012 to 2041, which was published in "Care Support Independence: The Case for Change" (a copy of which has been placed in the Library) was calculated for illustrative purposes only and no assessment of the current financial situation on the funding gap has been made. The wider issue of the reform of the care and support system is being considered in the Green Paper, due to be published next year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 321W, on social services, how the personal expenses allowance is calculated; and what the average weekly allowance for care home residents was in the last period for which figures are available. [231075]

Phil Hope: The requirement for an allowance for expenditure on personal items for those living in residential care settings has its origins in section 22(4) of the National Assistance Act 1948. The National Assistance

(Charges for Accommodation) Regulations 1948 set the sum for personal requirements at five shillings per week. These Regulations came into force on 5 July 1948. Due to the passage of time, it has not proved possible to establish the reasons that the level set was felt to be appropriate. Contemporary papers and reports are not available.

The Department now uprates the personal expenses allowance (PEA) annually on the basis of the increase in average earnings. The 2008-09 rate of PEA is £21.15 per week. This took effect on 7 April 2008.

Social Workers: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many social workers per 100,000 residents there were in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [230593]

Ann Keen: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collect and publish data relating to the number of social workers directly employed by social services departments within councils with social services responsibilities.

Data are not collected centrally for the Chesterfield parliamentary constituency.

The following table shows that data for the number of whole-time equivalent social workers per 100,000 head of population for Derbyshire and England as of the 30 September each year from 1997 to 2007.

Data for 2008 are expected to be published in spring 2009.

	England	*Derbyshire*
1997	71.4	62.2
1998	72.1	59.6
1999	73.1	62.1
2000	75.0	70.0
2001[1]	76.4	67.7
2002[1]	78.2	72.5
2003	81.1	74.2
2004	82.1	78.9
2005	83.9	78.5
2006	86.5	78.0
2007	87.6	76.2

Notes:
1. Figures are the sum of rounded numbers.
Source:
SSDS001

Trauma: Children

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1469W, on trauma: children, what proportion of *(a)* psychological trauma cases and *(b)* medical trauma cases classified by serious or critical bodily (i) injury, (ii) wound and (iii) shock involved children in the latest period for which figures are available. [230557]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available. Hospital episode statistics (HES) do not have classifications by the wide terms of trauma classified as psychological, medical, injury, wound or shock. HES can provide data based on the International Classification of Diseases and related Health Problems tenth Revision (ICD10) diagnoses codes. HES can also provide data on procedures or interventions performed on the patient while in hospital, these would be based on the Office of National Statistics Classification of Interventions and Procedures codings. Information on the diagnosis codes can be found at:

http://www.hesonline.org.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=214

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the commitments undertaken at the meetings of the Major Economies Process on Energy Security and Climate Change in Washington, USA and Honolulu, Hawaii; and if he will make a statement. [225357]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The meetings referred to were focused around an exchange of views rather than specific commitments. The process bought together leaders of major economies for the first time to discuss the energy security and climate change agenda. Their expression of strong commitment to and support for achieving a global agreement on climate change in 2009 within the UN process has added valuable momentum to the ongoing debate.

Energy Bill 2007-08

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on the powers of entry provisions in the Energy Bill relating to carbon dioxide inspectors. [225721]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have not previously had any representations on the powers of entry provisions of carbon dioxide storage inspectors in the Energy Bill. However, during the House of Commons Energy Bill debate on 21 February 2008, the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry), *Official Report,* column 180, raised this issue, seeking clarification of the sanctions provided in the Bill for people who have deliberately obstructed inspectors in their work and the then Energy Minister reassured the hon. Member that the sanctions were adequate.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* former miners and *(b)* former miners' families in Scotland have received compensation payments from the Coal Miners' Compensation Scheme, broken down by constituency. [226590]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The number of former miners and former miners' families in Scotland, broken down by constituency, who have received Coal Health Compensation payments for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Vibration White Finger as at 5 October 2008 is shown in the following table.

COPD claims that have received a damages payment reported by Scottish Constituency, as at 5 October 2008

	Total claims		*Live claims*		*Deceased claims*	
Constituency	*Claims registered*	*Claims that have received a damages payment*	*Claims registered*	*Claims that have received a damages payment*	*Claims registered*	*Claims that have received a damages payment*
Aberdeen Central Burgh Con	33	27	23	19	10	8
Aberdeen North Burgh Con	30	24	19	15	11	9
Aberdeen South Burgh Con	31	20	19	11	12	9
Airdrie and Shotts Burgh Con	3,789	2,436	875	661	2,914	1,775
Angus Co Con	37	27	24	17	13	10
Argyll and Bute Co Con	176	120	91	69	85	51
Ayr Co Con	1,345	933	600	472	745	461
Banff and Buchan Co Con	67	49	42	31	25	18
Caithness, Sutherl'd, Easter Ross Co Con	64	38	26	19	38	19
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Co Con	6,544	4,692	2,915	2,346	3,629	2,346
Central Fife Co Con	3,333	2,313	1,333	1,061	2,000	1,252
Clydebank and Milngavie Co Con	37	23	17	11	20	12
Clydesdale Co Con	2,566	1,699	637	490	1,929	1,209
Coatbridge and Chryston Burgh Con	1,419	893	405	313	1,014	580
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Co Con	1,052	703	290	229	762	474
Cunninghame North Co Con	117	82	58	41	59	41
Cunninghame South Co Con	461	282	163	130	298	152
Dumbarton Co Con	46	33	24	18	22	15
Dumfries Co Con	130	98	82	67	48	31
Dundee East Burgh Con	43	31	19	15	24	16
Dundee West Burgh Con	36	29	17	14	19	15
Dunfermline East Co Con	5,253	3,759	1,885	1,513	3,368	2,246
Dunfermline West Co Con	2,750	1,975	1,223	970	1,527	1,005
East Kilbride Co Con	127	77	60	42	67	35
East Lothian Co Con	2,793	1,935	1,021	793	1,772	1,142
Eastwood Co Con	39	20	24	13	15	7
Edinburgh Central Burgh Con	142	109	70	55	72	54
Edinburgh East and Musselburgh Burgh Con	814	550	315	237	499	313
Edinburgh North and Leith Burgh Con	129	88	55	38	74	50
Edinburgh Pentlands Burgh Con	95	67	53	38	42	29
Edinburgh South Burgh Con	441	311	164	123	277	188
Edinburgh West Burgh Con	130	87	57	45	73	42
Falkirk East Co Con	1,194	801	412	294	782	507
Falkirk West Co Con	619	373	196	137	423	236
Galloway and Upper Nithsdale Co Con	799	586	357	291	442	295
Glasgow Anniesland Burgh Con	55	28	18	13	37	15
Glasgow Baillieston Burgh Con	241	131	46	32	195	99
Glasgow Cathcart Burgh Con	48	25	16	11	32	14
Glasgow Govan Burgh Con	30	13	13	7	17	6
Glasgow Kelvin Burgh Con	47	32	17	14	30	18
Glasgow Maryhill Burgh Con	111	67	43	24	68	43
Glasgow Pollok Burgh Con	38	16	15	8	23	8
Glasgow Rutherglen Burgh Con	307	179	53	38	254	141
Glasgow Shettleston Burgh Con	125	77	45	29	80	48
Glasgow Springburn Burgh Con	140	79	46	26	94	53
Gordon Co Con	41	34	33	28	8	6
Greenock and Inverclyde Co Con	16	6	6	2	10	4
Hamilton North and Bellshill Burgh Con	1,585	980	276	179	1,309	801
Hamilton South Burgh Con	1,461	944	267	199	1,194	745
Inverness East, Nairn/Lochaber Co Con	89	64	54	40	35	24
Kilmarnock and Loudoun Co Con	618	410	222	176	396	234
Kirkcaldy Co Con	2,630	1,823	1,071	872	1,559	951
Linlithgow Co Con	3,413	2,381	964	745	2,449	1,636
Livingston Co Con	1,005	691	344	260	661	431
Midlothian Co Con	4,613	3,222	1,945	1,535	2,668	1,687
Moray Co Con	57	35	32	20	25	15
Motherwell and Wishaw Burgh Con	946	566	208	149	738	417
North East Fife Co Con	155	104	68	57	87	47
North Tayside Co Con	63	51	33	27	30	24
Ochil Co Con	3,080	2,150	1,268	1,021	1,812	1,129
Orkney and Shetland Co Con	15	10	13	9	2	1

COPD claims that have received a damages payment reported by Scottish Constituency, as at 5 October 2008

Constituency	Total claims: Claims registered	Total claims: Claims that have received a damages payment	Live claims: Claims registered	Live claims: Claims that have received a damages payment	Deceased claims: Claims registered	Deceased claims: Claims that have received a damages payment
Paisley North Burgh Con	43	27	18	14	25	13
Paisley South Burgh Con	40	28	13	9	27	19
Perth Co Con	104	70	59	43	45	27
Ross, Skye and Inverness West Co Con	77	53	55	40	22	13
Roxburgh and Berwickshire Co Con	112	77	58	46	54	31
Stirling Co Con	1,116	704	372	278	744	426
Strathkelvin and Bearsden Co Con	699	469	218	169	481	300
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale Co Con	522	375	293	232	229	143
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine Co Con	58	33	32	21	26	12
West Renfrewshire Co Con	34	24	16	11	18	13
Western Isles Co Con	18	12	15	10	3	2
Total	60,433	41,280	21,836	17,032	38,597	24,248

Note:
Claims that have received a damages payment includes both claims settled by payment and outstanding claims which have received an interim payment.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many miners' compensation claims remain unsettled in Scotland, broken down by constituency. [226591]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The number of miners' Coal Health Compensation claims that remain unsettled in Scotland, broken down by constituency, for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Vibration White Finger, as at 5 October 2008, is shown in the following tables.

Headline COPD Statistics reported by Scottish constituency, as at 5 October 2008

Constituency	Claims registered	Claims settled	Claims outstanding
Aberdeen Central Burgh Con	33	33	0
Aberdeen North Burgh Con	30	30	0
Aberdeen South Burgh Con	31	29	2
Airdrie and Shotts Burgh Con	3,789	3,298	491
Angus Co Con	37	35	2
Argyll and Bute Co Con	176	161	15
Ayr Co Con	1,345	1,202	143
Banff and Buchan Co Con	67	62	5
Caithness, Sutherl'd, Easter Ross Co Con	64	57	7
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Co Con	6,544	5,849	695
Central Fife Co Con	3,333	2,936	397
Clydebank and Milngavie Co Con	37	33	4
Clydesdale Co Con	2,566	2,240	326
Coatbridge and Chryston Burgh Con	1,419	1,181	238
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Co Con	1,052	922	130
Cunninghame North Co Con	117	104	13
Cunninghame South Co Con	461	414	47
Dumbarton Co Con	46	42	4
Dumfries Co Con	130	118	12
Dundee East Burgh Con	43	40	3
Dundee West Burgh Con	36	35	1
Dunfermline East Co Con	5,253	4,726	527
Dunfermline West Co Con	2,750	2,435	315
East Kilbride Co Con	127	111	16
East Lothian Co Con	2,793	2,464	329
Eastwood Co Con	39	32	7
Edinburgh Central Burgh Con	142	132	10
Edinburgh East and Musselburgh Burgh Con	814	718	96
Edinburgh North and Leith Burgh Con	129	121	8
Edinburgh Pentlands Burgh Con	95	86	9
Edinburgh South Burgh Con	441	382	59
Edinburgh West Burgh Con	130	118	12
Falkirk East Co Con	1,194	1,031	163
Falkirk West Co Con	619	534	85
Galloway and Upper Nithsdale Co Con	799	718	81
Glasgow Anniesland Burgh Con	55	45	10
Glasgow Baillieston Burgh Con	241	211	30

Headline COPD Statistics reported by Scottish constituency, as at 5 October 2008

Constituency	*Claims registered*	*Claims settled*	*Claims outstanding*
Glasgow Cathcart Burgh Con	48	44	4
Glasgow Govan Burgh Con	30	27	3
Glasgow Kelvin Burgh Con	47	44	3
Glasgow Maryhill Burgh Con	111	97	14
Glasgow Pollok Burgh Con	38	33	5
Glasgow Rutherglen Burgh Con	307	264	43
Glasgow Shettleston Burgh Con	125	107	18
Glasgow Springburn Burgh Con	140	117	23
Gordon Co Con	41	39	2
Greenock and Inverclyde Co Con	16	13	3
Hamilton North and Bellshill Burgh Con	1,585	1,364	221
Hamilton South Burgh Con	1,461	1,280	181
Inverness East, Nairn/Lochaber Co Con	89	83	6
Kilmarnock and Loudoun Co Con	618	547	71
Kirkcaldy Co Con	2,630	2,315	315
Linlithgow Co Con	3,413	3,007	406
Livingston Co Con	1,005	907	98
Midlothian Co Con	4,613	4,066	547
Moray Co Con	57	51	6
Motherwell and Wishaw Burgh Con	946	814	132
North East Fife Co Con	155	140	15
North Tayside Co Con	63	59	4
Ochil Co Con	3,080	2,682	398
Orkney and Shetland Co Con	15	12	3
Paisley North Burgh Con	43	37	6
Paisley South Burgh Con	40	35	5
Perth Co Con	104	92	12
Ross, Skye and Inverness West Co Con	77	70	7
Roxburgh and Berwickshire Co Con	112	102	10
Stirling Co Con	1,116	951	165
Strathkelvin and Bearsden Co Con	699	610	89
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale Co Con	522	465	57
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine Co Con	58	50	8
West Renfrewshire Co Con	34	33	1
Western Isles Co Con	18	15	3
Total	60,433	53,257	7,176

Note:
Claims settled includes claims settled by payment, denial/withdrawal or claims struck out.

Constituency	*Claims registered*	*Claims settled*	*Claims outstanding*
Aberdeen Central Burgh Con	4	4	0
Aberdeen North Burgh Con	5	5	0
Aberdeen South Burgh Con	7	7	0
Airdrie and Shotts Burgh Con	237	233	4
Angus Co Con	5	5	0
Argyll and Bute Co Con	13	12	1
Ayr Co Con	298	297	1
Banff and Buchan Co Con	6	6	0
Caithness, Sutherl'd, Easter Ross Co Con	8	8	0
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Co Con	2,426	2,395	31
Central Fife Co Con	524	519	5
Clydebank and Milngavie Co Con	3	3	0
Clydesdale Co Con	178	177	1
Coatbridge and Chryston Burgh Con	247	243	4
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Co Con	118	115	3
Cunninghame North Co Con	14	14	0
Cunninghame South Co Con	22	21	1
Dumbarton Co Con	1	1	0
Dumfries Co Con	18	17	1
Dundee East Burgh Con	5	5	0
Dundee West Burgh Con	1	1	0
Dunfermline East Co Con	1,142	1,131	11
Dunfermline West Co Con	1,035	1,020	15
East Kilbride Co Con	6	6	0

Constituency	*Claims registered*	*Claims settled*	*Claims outstanding*
East Lothian Co Con	736	730	6
Eastwood Co Con	2	2	0
Edinburgh Central Burgh Con	16	16	0
Edinburgh East and Musselburgh Burgh Con	135	135	0
Edinburgh North and Leith Burgh Con	25	24	1
Edinburgh Pentlands Burgh Con	13	13	0
Edinburgh South Burgh Con	93	93	0
Edinburgh West Burgh Con	14	14	0
Falkirk East Co Con	171	169	2
Falkirk West Co Con	54	54	0
Galloway and Upper Nithsdale Co Con	212	210	2
Glasgow Anniesland Burgh Con	1	1	0
Glasgow Baillieston Burgh Con	15	15	0
Glasgow Cathcart Burgh Con	3	3	0
Glasgow Govan Burgh Con	3	3	0
Glasgow Kelvin Burgh Con	3	3	0
Glasgow Maryhill Burgh Con	11	11	0
Glasgow Rutherglen Burgh Con	12	12	0
Glasgow Shettleston Burgh Con	9	9	0
Glasgow Springburn Burgh Con	10	10	0
Gordon Co Con	8	8	0
Greenock and Inverclyde Co Con	2	2	0
Hamilton North and Bellshill Burgh Con	82	82	0
Hamilton South Burgh Con	77	75	2
Inverness East, Nairn/Lochaber Co Con	8	8	0
Kilmarnock and Loudoun Co Con	57	55	2
Kirkcaldy Co Con	462	457	5
Linlithgow Co Con	374	372	2
Livingston Co Con	85	83	2
Midlothian Co Con	1,657	1,645	12
Moray Co Con	10	10	0
Motherwell and Wishaw Burgh Con	38	38	0
North East Fife Co Con	13	13	0
North Tayside Co Con	3	3	0
Ochil Co Con	808	802	6
Orkney and Shetland Co Con	2	2	0
Paisley North Burgh Con	4	4	0
Paisley South Burgh Con	2	2	0
Perth Co Con	9	9	0
Ross, Skye and Inverness West Co Con	11	11	0
Roxburgh and Berwickshire Co Con	32	31	1
Stirling Co Con	196	193	3
Strathkelvin and Bearsden Co Con	99	96	3
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale Co Con	154	152	2
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine Co Con	8	8	0
West Renfrewshire Co Con	4	4	0
Western Isles Co Con	4	4	0
Total	12,070	11,941	129

Note:
Claims settled includes claims settled by payment, denial or withdrawal.

Nuclear Power Stations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the availability of UK labour to build the next generation of nuclear power stations. [225547]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Nuclear White Paper, published in January 2008, provides an assessment of the availability of skilled workers in the UK to build a new programme of nuclear power stations. Government believe that a programme of new nuclear power station construction in the UK has the potential to create many thousands of UK jobs. However there will be challenges in meeting the need for skilled workers, and Government are working with industry to meet the expected high levels of demand for trained staff, including work with Cogent, the National Skills Academy for Nuclear and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229185]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development has 180 current civil servants who were recruited through the fast stream. The average current annual salary for those individuals is £37,688.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229088]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since 2005 the Department for International Development (DFID) has predominantly used only three agency suppliers: Margaret Hodge, Josephine Sammons and Manpower for temporary staff. DFID also has delegated authority to appoint professional and specialist staff from specialist suppliers, and in these cases the costs are not registered centrally.

A management fee is included in the salary costs for each person supplied by the three agencies, but it is not possible to disaggregate the management fees from the total amount charged by the agencies or to apportion the total amount paid without incurring disproportionate costs.

The following table shows the total costs paid in the last three financial years to the three suppliers managed centrally. Figures for earlier financial years are not available.

Financial year	*Total amount paid (£)*
2005-06	1,226,530
2006-07	1,113,890
2007-08	783,955

Sri Lanka: Health Services

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people in the north of Sri Lanka who do not have access to healthcare and water as a result of the recent hostilities between the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [229362]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) estimates that between 200,000 and 250,000 people are currently displaced in the north of Sri Lanka in an area known as the Vanni. This population is concentrated in an area to the east of Kilinochchi, living in very difficult conditions and almost entirely dependent on humanitarian supplies. The delays in sending humanitarian convoys and safety along the route from Vavunia are major concerns, and there is no permanent UN or NGO presence in the Vanni.

For this reason it is difficult to estimate accurately the numbers without access to health care and clean water. However, local hospitals have reported high numbers of cases of diarrhoea and other water borne diseases which would reflect poor access to clean water. Most displaced persons are reduced to defecating in the open due to lack of sanitation. There is generally access to immediate food supplies, but lack of shelter for at least 50,000 people is becoming an increasing concern with the monsoon season approaching. The situation remains very difficult and we continue to press for increased humanitarian access.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226516]

Mr. Watson: Information is not held centrally on the effectiveness of individual advertising campaigns commissioned by the Cabinet Office and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office encourages effective evaluation of all advertising and works closely with the Central Office of Information, who make available useful advertising evaluation techniques to its clients.

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of media monitoring for *(a)* the Prime Minister, *(b)* the No. 10 Downing Street office and *(c)* the Cabinet Office was in each of the last 10 years; and how many full-time equivalent staff carried out such work. [215041]

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost to the public purse was of media monitoring activities carried out by *(a)* the Central Office of Information, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last five years. [222598]

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the running costs of the Media Monitoring Unit were in 2007-08. [224958]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1302W.

The cost of the Media Monitoring Unit in 2007-08 is accounted for in the Central Office of Information's annual report and accounts 2007-08 which were laid before Parliament on 16 July 2008.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many departmental identity cards or passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff of *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Central Office of Information in the last 24 months. [211127]

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) the Cabinet Office, (ii) its agency and (iii) the Prime Minister's Office in each year since 2001. [228961]

Mr. Byrne: In the last 24 months 51 Cabinet Office passes have been reported lost and 19 reported stolen. The Central Office of Information (COI) does not hold records prior to April 2007. However, since April 2007 132 COI passes have been reported lost or stolen.

In respect of the Prime Minister's Office I refer the hon. and right hon. Members to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 919W.

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Prime Minister's Office spent on external training courses for staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year. [230493]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. For details of costs of training, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 559W. Details of the individual organisations used for external training are not held centrally.

Foreign Workers: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many non-UK nationals worked in London in each of the last 10 years. [229381]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated October 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many non-UK nationals worked in London in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (229381)

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The requested information is provided in the attached table based on those people aged 16 and over in employment who reported that their place of work is within the government office region of London.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is provided in the attached table.

The estimates in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Non-UK nationals aged 16 and over in employment in London[1]: three months ending June, 1999 to 2008—not seasonally adjusted

	Thousand *Non-UK nationals*
1999	471
2000	523
2001	606
2002	624
2003	647
2004	687
2005	694
2006	765
2007	800
2008[2]	875

[1] Those people in employment who reported that their place of work is in the Government Office Region of London.

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV ≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 = CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 = CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

It should be noted that the aforementioned estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Media Monitoring Unit: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time equivalent employees are employed to work in the Cabinet Office's Media Monitoring Unit. [224965]

Mr. Watson: The Media Monitoring Unit (MMU) is part of the Central Office of Information (COI). The number of employees will be accounted for in COI's annual report and accounts 2007-08 which were laid before Parliament on 16 July 2008.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228559]

Mr. Watson: The Department's Single Equality Scheme sets out how the Cabinet Office is meeting its Disability Equality Duty, monitoring and reporting on progress. The Department collects and analyses work force data on the impact its recruitment and management systems have on disabled applicants and employees and uses these to ensure those systems are fairly applied.

The public sector bodies sponsored by the Department that are subject to these requirements are responsible for publishing and implementing their own disability equality schemes.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222177]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office is committed to the well-being of its employees and has a number of procedures in place including a framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards available to all employees.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on local licensed premises of sales of low-cost alcohol in supermarkets; and if he will make a statement. [227292]

Mr. Thomas: None. The prices an enterprise charges for its products is a commercial matter for the enterprise concerned. Enterprises such as restaurants, pubs and clubs selling alcohol products for consumption on their premises are likely to have different cost bases and business models to off licences, shops and supermarkets that sell alcohol for home consumption. Such differences are likely to be reflected in the prices charged to customers. The interests of consumers are best protected by ensuring there is effective competition between different enterprises seeking to attract customers.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229559]

Mr. McFadden: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in the Annual Report and Accounts. A copy of the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) Annual Report and Accounts for financial year 2007-08, and those of its agencies, the Insolvency Service (INSS) and ACAS, can be found in the Library.

Alternatively they can be accessed electronically using the following links:

BERR

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file47094.pdf

INSS

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/pdfs/guidanceleafletspdf/InsolvencyReport0708.pdf

ACAS

http://www.acas.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=919&p=0

Energy Supply: Natural Gas

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many days' supply of gas the UK has storage capacity for; and what proposals his Department has to increase this. [224730]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

National Grid has stated in its Winter Energy Outlook, published on 2 October 2008, that the UK has the following assumed storage capacities and deliverability levels for 2008-09:

> 4.2 days (at full rate) of short range storage from LNG (liquefied natural gas) delivering 49 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d);
>
> 18.5 days (weighted average duration) of medium range storage delivering 49 mcm/d;
>
> 78.1 days (at full rate) of long range storage from the former Rough field in the North sea delivering 42 mcm/d.

Existing gas storage capacity is some 4.5 bcm (billion cubic metres). National Grid also indicated in their 10 year statement 2007, that a further 0.6 bcm is under construction and 5.4 bcm is proposed for the early years of the next decade. Reforming the onshore and offshore consents regimes through the Planning and Energy Bills respectively is intended to facilitate the development of new projects.

Fireworks: Safety

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with firework manufacturers on safety. [229375]

Mr. Thomas: I have not met representatives of the fireworks industry recently, but my officials are in regular contact with involved parties.

Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many employees of his Department work in the London Borough of Havering. [229395]

Mr. McFadden: There are no BERR HQ staff working in the London borough of Havering.

National Grid: Standards

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2128W, on the National Grid: standards, if he will *(a)* publish the National Grid's full report and *(b)* provide an explanation of the third drop in system frequency of 27 May 2008. [224889]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

A full report into the loss of electricity supply is expected to be published before the end of 2008. National Grid is making good progress in establishing the cause of the incident and the consequential effects, and I expect the report to cover each stage of the frequency drop including the third stage.

Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions have taken place between his Department and non-EU European countries to encourage trade between the UK and those countries. [229387]

Mr. Thomas: Bilateral contacts between BERR and non-EU European countries take place through various fora in support of the Department's key objective of delivering free and fair markets, with greater competition, for businesses, consumers and employees.

In particular, UKTI officials in London and in posts have held discussions with a number of these countries to enhance bilateral trade relationships and address barriers to trade, and we have provided technical assistance to EU applicant countries to support their work on integration and alignment with the body of EU law. Since Russia and Turkey are considered "High Growth" markets under UKTI's five year strategy, specific strategies exist to strengthen contact with the respective governments on trade access issues and to inform UK business of opportunities in these markets. For example, my noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is currently undertaking an official visit to Russia between 26 and 29 October.

BERR officials also participate in the relevant EU trade policy fora to encourage and support the development of rules to maintain competition, promote competitive business environments in the UK and EU and achieve closer integration of these countries into the wider European economy.

These include participation in the EU enlargement negotiations with Croatia and Turkey (and the precursor Stabilisation and Association Agreements with the Western Balkan Countries), discussions with European Free Trade Agreement members, and discussions with Russia and the Ukraine on the Free Trade Agreements and EU Neighbourhood Policy.

Post Offices: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when a decision on the future of the Conniburrow and Fishermead post office branches in Milton Keynes will be made. [230809]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Saudi Arabia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government has taken to promote business relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the British construction industry. [229437]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government's trade promotion department, UK Trade and Investment is currently researching possible opportunities for UK construction companies in the Saudi market. The final report of this research will be made available to the UK construction sector once completed.

Small Firms' Loan Guarantee

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how much money has been guaranteed by the Government under the Small Firms' Loan Guarantee in each year since 2003; [225166]

(2) how many businesses have received assistance from the Small Firms' Loan Guarantee in each year since 2003. [225168]

Mr. McFadden: The value and volume of lending under the Government's Small Firms Loan Guarantee for each financial year from 2003 is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Value of lending (£)*	*Number of loans*
2003-04	409,261,000	5,957
2004-05	481,324,000	7,130
2005-06	422,065,000	5,956
2006-07	236,405,212	3,019
2007-08	206,759,347	2,619

Street Trading

Mr. Chope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will publish the interim report of the Street Trading and Pedlar Review commissioned by his Department from Durham University; [229745]

(2) when he expects the final report of the Street Trading and Pedlar Review commissioned by his Department from Durham University to be made available to hon. Members. [229746]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* BERR does not intend to publish the interim report of the Street Trading and Pedlary Review. The primary purpose of the interim report is to allow Government and the researchers to take stock of the project, consider any procedural issues and identify any gaps in the evidence before the final report is compiled. Policy decisions will not be made based on the interim report and it was always intended to be for BERR internal use only.

The final report of the Street Trading and Pedlary Review is due to be submitted by Durham university later this autumn. Following this my ministerial colleagues and I will consider its findings. We hope to release the final report to hon. Members and the public early in the new year.

Supermarkets: Complaints

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Office of Fair Trading has spent on investigating complaints under the supermarket code of practice in each year since the code's inception. [229494]

Mr. Thomas: The OFT does not keep records or estimates of the costs of monitoring and enforcement of each individual remedy for which it is responsible.

Trade: Iceland

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of UK *(a)* imports to and *(b)* exports from Iceland were on the latest date for which figures are available. [230137]

Mr. Thomas: The Office for National Statistics "UK Balance of Payments Pink Book" shows that in 2007 UK imports from Iceland of goods were worth £414 million and imports of services were worth £92 million, while exports of goods were worth £195 million and exports of services were worth £174 million.

According to the latest figures published by HM Revenue and Customs on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis, the UK's imports of goods from Iceland for the period January to August 2008 amounted to £291 million; UK's exports of goods to Iceland for the same period amounted to £134 million.

Wind Power

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many wind turbines there are in the UK. [225107]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

In terms of wind turbines under 100kW ('microgeneration'), we assessed in our Element Energy research that there were 1,100 micro-wind turbines installed in the UK at the end of 2007. The research document can be downloaded at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

The following table shows the number of wind turbines above 100kW generating in the UK at August 2008:

	Number
Onshore	2,185
Offshore	193
Total	2,378

Source: AEA Technology.

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures are in place to ensure that generation from fossil fuel power stations is regulated to account for differentials in wind power generation. [225110]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

National Grid is responsible for procuring balancing services in order to balance demand and supply and to ensure the security and quality of electricity supply across the GB Transmission System.

National Grid has a licence obligation to control system frequency within specified limits. National Grid must therefore ensure that sufficient generation and/or demand is held in automatic readiness to manage all credible circumstances that might result in frequency variations.

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on whether *(a)* the output of fossil fuel power stations may be reduced for periods when wind power is available and *(b)* there are periods of duplication of production. [225111]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The information is as follows:

(a) National Grid is responsible for procuring balancing services in order to balance demand and supply and to ensure the security and quality of electricity supply across the GB Transmission System. National Grid may call plants on and off the system in order to maintain this balance.

(b) There can be no duplication of electrical generation as supply cannot be greater than demand.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* planning applications to local authorities and *(b)* pre-application enquiries to the Ministry of Defence for onshore wind turbines were objected to by the Ministry of Defence or Defence Estates in each of the last three years; and what the reason was for the objection in each case. [184413]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

In the past three years the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has objected to planning applications and raised concerns on onshore pre-planning consultations as follows:

	Number of planning applications for onshore wind turbines submitted to local planning authorities to which the MOD has objected	*Number of onshore wind energy pre-planning consultations with which the MOD raised concerns*
2005	5	283
2006	15	354
2007	29	346

The planning applications to which the MOD objected, were 15 related to interference with air defence (AD) radar, 28 to interference with air traffic control (ATC) radar, two to interference with both AD and ATC radar, one to interference with NATS radar, and three due to an unacceptable restriction on low flying.

The success of the MOD's pre-planning consultation process is based largely on the fact that, until a planning application is submitted, our discussions with developers are strictly in confidence. To release the substance of our discussions before a planning application is submitted would inevitably deter prospective developers from using the pre-planning process or trusting MOD with details of their proposals. For that reason it is not possible to give the details of our objections on a case by case basis.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mobile telephone masts were constructed in each year since 1997. [229365]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold this information. Local planning authorities are not required to notify the Department where a mast has been installed following a prior approval application.

Arc Manche

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether representatives of *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* the Government Office for the South East have attended (i) formal or (ii) informal meetings of (A) the Arc Manche Assembly and (B) its committees since the Assembly's inception. [230298]

John Healey: No representatives of my Department or the Government Office for the South East have attended any meetings of the Arc Manche Assembly or its committees since the Assembly's inception.

Audit Commission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the Audit Commission's appointed auditors are. [230329]

John Healey: The accounts of the Audit Commission are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Council Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority-owned dwellings underwent improvements to their *(a)* central heating and *(b)* insulation in each year since 1996-97; and how much was spent on each kind of work in each year. [230256]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is not able to provide figures on central heating dating back to 1996-97. For local authorities, statistics on central heating and insulation works were first collected from 2001, initially through the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) and subsequently through the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) from 2002. The following table displays the number of dwellings (and associated expenditure) receiving works each year, as reported by local authorities.

Local authority-owned dwellings and expenditure on central heating and insulation

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Central heating							
Number of dwellings	107,188	127,580	125,682	133,732	140,066	139,494	135,477
Expenditure (£ million)	221	261	279	326	380	426	426
Insulation							
Number of dwellings	111,943	105,572	119,257	138,116	111,633	89,817	81,563
Expenditure (£ million)	62	58	54	59	44	35	33

Note:
Improvement work includes works of a capital nature: installation, replacement or major repair.
Sources:
1. Figures for 2002-07 from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA). 2000 figures from the BPSA's predecessor—the Housing Investment Programme.
2. Figures include those authorities which have chosen to retain their housing stock and also Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMCs).

Council Housing: Standards

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date each local authority is expected to meet the decent homes standard. [229405]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the implications of the recent Court of Appeal ruling on increased traffic and council tax bands for her Department's policy; and what the cost to the public purse of the legal case was. [230299]

John Healey: The Court of Appeal's ruling endorsed the Valuation Office Agency's existing practice in relation to the valuation for council tax of dwellings affected by increased traffic noise. The overall cost of the legal case to the public purse has not been calculated.

Demolition: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 262W, on demolition: finance, if she will now place in the Library the funding agreements. [230153]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 340W.

Departmental Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 227-28W, on departmental non-departmental public bodies, if she will provide the equivalent information for all advisory non-departmental bodies with which funding has been agreed with her Department in 2008 to 2011. [231210]

Mr. Khan: The Department currently sponsors five advisory non-departmental public bodies as follows:

Advisory Panel for the Beacons Scheme: www.beacons.idea.gov.uk

Advisory Panel on Standards for Planning Inspectorate: www.apos.gsi.gov.uk

Building Regulations Advisory Committee: www.communities.gov.uk/brac

National Community Forum: www.communities/communityempowerment/whatweare/ncf/

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit: www.communities.gov.uk/nhpau

I refer the hon. Member to the Department's publication 'Public Bodies 2007', which is available via our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/publicbodies2007

This year's publication will be available by the end of November 2008.

Departmental Recruitment Agencies

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recruitment agencies *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have used in the last three years; and how much was paid to each of these recruitment agencies in each year. [230943]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government spent the following on temporary agency staff between 2005 and 2007:

	£
2005-06	5,588,465
2006-07	5,623,769

Changes in the way financial data were collected in 2007-08 means that total spend on agency temps could be made available only at disproportionate cost. Names of companies and breakdown of spend per company could also be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which companies were used by her Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229081]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government spent the following on temporary agency staff between 2003 and 2007:

	£
2003-04	5,882,923
2004-05	6,569,433
2005-06	5,588,465
2006-07	5,623,769

Changes in the way financial data were collected in 2007-08 means that total spend on agency temps could be made available only at disproportionate cost. Names of companies and breakdown of spend per company could also be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Design for Manufacture

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the location and address of each site in the Design for Manufacture competition is; and which sites have completed their home building process. [230338]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Design for Manufacture competition, which was launched in April 2005, was run by English Partnerships on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government. The competition was the Government's challenge to the house building industry to build high-quality, well-designed homes for £60,000. The figure of £60,000 relates to a target construction cost for building a two bedroom home and does not reflect the development cost or sale price.

The 10 sites included in the Design for Manufacture competition are:

Site 6, Oxley Park, Milton Keynes;

Former TA Centre, Oxford Road, Aylesbury;

Site D2, Upton, Northampton;

Area 2, Allerton Bywater, near Leeds;

Former Renny Lodge Hospital, London Road, Newport Pagnell;

Former Park Prewett Hospital, Kingsclere Road, Basingstoke;

Leybourne Grange, Maidstone;

Rowan Lodge School, Merton, London;

School Road, Hastings; and

Former Greenhithe Territorial Army Centre, Horn's Cross, Dartford.

Build out is mostly being taken forward on a phased basis and construction work is well advanced on most of the sites, with a number of phases completed, homes occupied and communities established. Renny Lodge in Newport Pagnell is the only site where all of the homes and public realm being built through the competition have been completed.

Eco-Towns

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department provided to Shelter for the production of the document on the proposed eco-town at Long Marston, entitled Middle Quinton: Eco-town—the Facts. [228354]

Mr. Iain Wright: We agreed to support the publication "Middle Quinton: Eco-town—the facts", and similar ones for the other shortlisted eco-town locations, to ensure that people potentially affected by eco-towns have information about housing need in their area and how to take part in consultation. In terms of "Middle Quinton: Eco-town—the facts" we have contributed £7,366 (+ VAT) to Shelter for the production of the publication.

These publications do not promote eco-town locations, but provide information about the housing situation in and around potential eco-town locations, so that people are able to make an informed input to decisions about whether an eco-town should go ahead. Any views expressed in the document are those of the authors and not my Department.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1421-22W, on empty property, if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent to local authorities seeking information on how reforms to the empty property rate are working. [230127]

John Healey: A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to take action against empty non-domestic dwellings which harm the amenity of the local environment. [230297]

Mr. Iain Wright: Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides a local planning authority (LPA) with the power, in certain circumstances, to take steps requiring land (including buildings) to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area. The use of section 215 by LPAs is discretionary and it is up to the LPA to decide whether a notice under these provisions would be appropriate in a particular case, taking account of the local circumstances.

This power has been effectively used on large vacant industrial sites, town centre street frontages, rural sites, derelict buildings and semi-complete development as well as the more typical run-down residential properties and overgrown gardens.

The Government have issued guidance on the use of this power which can be found in "Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 215 Best Practice Guidance" which can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/townplanningact

Potential sites can sometimes go beyond the remit of a s215 notice and the guidance sets out that there may be other more appropriate powers that an LPA can rely upon in order to effect a remedy, for example:

ss76-79 of the Building Act for defective premises, dangerous building, ruinous and dilapidated buildings and neglected sites;

s29 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for works on unoccupied buildings;

ss79-82 of the Environmental Protection Act for abatement of prohibition of a nuisance;

Listed Building legislation such as Repairs and Urgent Works Notices;

Completion notices; and

Compulsory Purchase Orders.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an impact assessment was undertaken in relation to the decision to allow energy performance certificates for the sale of domestic dwellings to have a shelf-life of three years. [230183]

Mr. Iain Wright: Yes. A preliminary Impact Assessment was published on 13 December 2007 as part of the Public Consultation on EPC Validity and is available on the CLG website. A final Impact Assessment was produced alongside SI 2363, EPBD Amendment No. 2 Regulations 2008 and placed in the House of Commons Library on 9 September.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) from what date energy performance certificates are required for a residential property sale; and at what stage in a sale; [230349]

(2) at what point in the residential sale process an energy performance certificate must be provided. [230190]

Mr. Iain Wright: There has been a requirement to provide a Home Information Pack containing an EPC from August 2007 for the sale of dwellings of four bedrooms and over, September 2007 for dwellings of three bedrooms and all remaining dwellings from December 2007.

An EPC is required for the sale of all homes from 1 October 2008. This includes properties that do not require a HIP, either because they are exempt, or because they were placed on the market before the requirement to have a HIP commenced for their category.

The EPC must be made available for any home, free of charge, to a prospective buyer from 1 October 2008, at the earliest opportunity and in any event where any of the following happens:

When the building is viewed (even if that means providing the EPC before any written information is provided)

If written information about the building is provided as a result of a request by a prospective purchaser

Before contracts are exchanged

It is not placing a property on the market that defines the point at which an EPC must be available, but any of the circumstances listed above.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the reliability and accuracy of energy performance certificates for domestic dwellings. [230694]

Mr. Iain Wright: Domestic energy assessors are overseen by accreditation schemes, who are responsible for the quality of EPCs and redress for consumers. All schemes must meet quality standards as a condition of approval: this includes ensuring the quality of assessors and EPCs. As an additional check, the Department has commissioned an independent audit of quality assurance procedures, and the first phase of this is currently being carried out.

Environmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there will be on local planning authorities to produce environmental impact assessments; and to what types of planning application such requirements will apply. [2307[illegible]]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest environmental impact assessment (EIA) regulations have been in force since 1999. They require an EIA to be carried out by a developer to accompany planning applications for certain types of development which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. EIA is compulsory for certain categories of large scale development (e.g. construction of motorways). The decision whether or not to require EIA for smaller scale developments (e.g. housing developments exceeding 0.5 hectares) falls to the local planning authority.

Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether regional firecontrol room limited companies are public authorities for the purposes of freedom of information legislation. [230795]

Mr. Khan: The local authority controlled companies are wholly owned by the fire and rescue authorities in each region and are public authorities for the purposes of freedom of information.

Fire Services: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters there were per 100,000 residents in each fire and rescue authority in England in each year since 1997. [229891]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 975W, to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes).

First Time Buyers

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated to assist first-time buyers with property purchases in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12. [231263]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not set budgets for individual low cost home ownership products, which fall within the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme. Of the overall £8.4 billion budget available over the three years 2008-11, we have indicated that around £1.5 billion may be used for low cost home ownership. The overall funds available for 2011-12 will be subject to decisions made at the next spending review.

To the end of September the Housing Corporation has spent a total of £180 million on low cost home ownership schemes in 2008-09.

On 2 September we announced a further £300 million over the next two years (2008-10) to help up to 10,000 first time buyers through the new shared equity scheme HomeBuy Direct. This scheme is designed to sell unsold properties that house builders have been unable to sell. The scheme will be offered on specific new build properties brought forward by developers. Buyers will be offered an equity loan of up to 30 per cent. of purchase price, co-funded by Government and the developer.

Gigateway

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason her Department has decided to cease funding for the Gigateway; and whether she plans to reassess the spatial data infrastructure during the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive. [230317]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Gigateway metadata service has been in operation for several years through the Association for Geographic Information as a unique service to the GI (geographic information) community. Due to financial pressures, funding support from Communities and Local Government for Gigateway ends on 31 March 2009. The future role of Gigateway within the UK Spatial Data Infrastructure will be developed following publication of the UK Location Strategy. DEFRA is leading the implementation of INSPIRE and the UK Location Strategy.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 37-39WS, on home information packs, what the timetable is for the production of the report of the working group. [229649]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Working Group on Leasehold Information in HIPs has completed its work and we are currently considering the conclusions.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2085W, on home information packs, what assessment *(a)* her Department and *(b)* consultants for her Department have made of the typical maximum period within which a local authority search in a home information pack will be accepted as valid by a mortgage lender. [230145]

Mr. Iain Wright: None.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department *(a)* collected and *(b)* sampled arising from home information pack purchases. [230181]

Mr. Iain Wright: Throughout the roll out of the Home Information Pack programme, the Department conducted a range of interviews with estate agents and other property professionals to help monitor the effectiveness of the mechanisms and processes in place to produce HIPs, including average cost and average length of time taken to prepare.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the introduction of property information questionnaires in home information packs. [230693]

Mr. Iain Wright: The consultation on the property information questionnaire closed on 30 September 2008. We are currently analysing responses. Decisions on whether to introduce the questionnaire and the timescales for any introductions will follow this analysis.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum period is for which a search report included in a home information pack is valid. [230871]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2085W, on home information packs.

Home Information Packs: Prosecutions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals have been prosecuted for failure to comply with home information pack requirements. [230667]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 230W.

Homelessness

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures the Government plans to introduce to alleviate *(a)* homelessness and *(b)* youth homelessness. [229859]

Mr. Iain Wright: Tackling homelessness is a key priority for this Government. We work closely with local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to drive forward our homelessness agenda.

We have allocated £200 million to local authorities and voluntary organisations over the next three years to tackle and prevent homelessness in their area—the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services. In addition, a further £80 million capital funding has been allocated through our Places of Change Programme to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to build on the success of improving hostels and day centres.

We also announced in September a £200 million mortgage rescue scheme, which will help up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable households facing repossession over the next two years.

Homelessness prevention measures funded by Communities and Local Government have had a major impact. In the last five years, we have more than halved the number of homeless households in priority need accepted by local authorities; we are now making serious inroads into the backlog of households in temporary accommodation, and local authorities are making good progress on meeting our target to halve the number of households in temporary accommodation to 50,500 by 2010 with one third of authorities having already met the target; we are maintaining levels of rough sleeping at historical low levels and we are now developing an updated Rough Sleeping Strategy that builds on 10 years of success and aim to publish it later in the year.

We established the National Youth Homelessness Scheme (NYHS) jointly led by Centrepoint and YMCA England. NYHS has established nine regional centres of excellence to offer practical examples to neighbouring authorities of effective service models, and a website and knowledge base to offer accessible information and practical initiatives on preventing and tackling youth homelessness.

In addition, local authorities are making good progress on the commitment that by 2010, no 16 or 17-year-olds should be placed in bed-and-breakfast accommodation by a local authority under the homelessness legislation, except in an emergency. At the end of June 2008, there were 420 16 and 17-year-olds in bed-and-breakfast accommodation (compared to the September 2006 estimated baseline of 1,000) with only 160 accommodated for more than six weeks.

Homelessness: Young People

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people aged 18 to 21 years approached their local authority for accommodation on the basis that they were homeless in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [229736]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include all decisions made on applications for assistance by eligible applicants, and the number of these applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). These households are known as 'accepted' households.

Information on applications for assistance under the homelessness legislation by age is not held centrally. However the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty, is collected by age bands, and includes those applicants who are aged between 16 and 24-years-old.

A table has been placed in the Library showing total acceptances of applicants aged between 16 and 24-years-old, by each local authority, for the most recent quarter for which information is available—April to June 2008.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many free emergency beds are available solely to homeless youths at any one time in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley District and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [229860]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect this information.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessors has spent on services for homeless youths in each of the last 10 years. [229861]

Mr. Iain Wright: My Department does not record figures covering total spend on youth homelessness services for the time period specified.

Funding for youth homelessness services will typically come from unhypothecated revenue and capital grants given to local authorities and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) by my Department. For example, we have allocated £200 million over the next three years (2008-11) for local authorities and the VCS to tackle and prevent homelessness. It is for them to determine how best to use this money to achieve this aim.

In November 2006, the Government announced a package of measures to prevent and tackle youth homelessness, this included the establishment of the National Youth Homelessness Scheme. During 2007-08, an additional £600,000 for new services was made available. It helped local authorities set up new supported lodgings and other supported housing services, as well as schemes to prevent young people becoming homeless.

Since 2003, administering authorities have been allocated funding through the Supporting People programme, to support the most vulnerable people in their communities through the provision of housing-related support. Authorities, rather than central Government, determine how to focus their Supporting People funding. We do not collect data on how much of the funding authorities spent on services for homeless youths specifically, but do know that in 2005-06, authorities spent £105 million on young people at risk, and £115 million in 2006-07.

Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what issues the forthcoming Housing Green Paper will address; and what the timetable is for its publication. [230308]

Margaret Beckett: The Government announced in 'Preparing Britain for the future: the Government's draft legislative programme 2008-09' (available from The Stationery Office)

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7372/7372.pdf

and its intention to publish a Housing Reform Green Paper towards the end of 2008. It said that the Green Paper would set out

> "proposals to provide housing services and options which help and encourage people towards greater economic independence and social mobility—matching responsibility with opportunity so that they can realise their potential and best meet their own housing aspirations in the future—and to deliver greater fairness and make best use of resources".

I am currently considering the content and timing of the Green Paper.

Housing and Communities Agency: Public Appointments

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who has been appointed to the Board of the Housing and Communities Agency; what criteria were used in making the appointments; and what annual remuneration each board member will receive. [229962]

Mr. Iain Wright: The board members appointed to the board, in addition to Robert Napier as chair were: Kate Barker, Professor Peter Roberts, Bob Lane, Candy Atherton, Margaret Fay, Shaukat Moledina, Don Wood, Ian Robertson and Dru Vesty.

Recruitment was carried out in two phases. To preserve continuity from the HCA's predecessor bodies, some of the membership of the board of the HCA was drawn from the existing English Partnership and Housing Corporation Boards via a preference exercise and interview process. New members were recruited via an open competition and were required to meet advertised criteria. These included experience of the commercial realities of delivering large scale physical development, experience of leading organisations at board level, combined with an understanding of the public sector, public finance and accountability. The appointments were made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioners for Public Appointments.

The remuneration of all board members is £13,000 per annum for a commitment of two days per month.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1479W, on stamp duty land tax, who is responsible for determining whether an energy performance certificate contains the information sufficient to demonstrate that the zero carbon homes standard has been met and that a further inspection is not necessary for certification. [230151]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Accredited assessors are responsible for deciding whether the information contained in an energy performance certificate provides sufficient evidence, that the zero carbon homes standard has been met.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the implications of the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and secondary legislation made under it on building standards and regulations for new domestic dwellings. [225442]

Mr. Iain Wright: Implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act does not by necessity require amendment of the Building Regulations. However, in line with the requirements of the Disability Equality Duty, Communities and Local Government will Equality Impact Assess existing policies, and any proposed changes, on Building Regulations for new domestic dwellings as they come forward for review. Equality Impact Assessments are made publicly available on the Departmental web site.

Housing: Low Incomes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* budgeted expenditure and *(b)* outturn expenditure was, for each HomeBuy scheme in each year since the schemes were introduced. [229280]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows outturn expenditure through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing programme for each homebuy scheme for each year since the schemes were introduced. As new build homebuy is comparable to the Shared Ownership programme we have also provided these figures back to 1997-98. New build homebuy and social homebuy were only introduced from 2006-07.

£ million

	Shared ownership	*Homebuy new build*	*Open market homebuy*	*Social homebuy*
1997-98	62.0	n/a	0.0	n/a
1998-99	49.5	n/a	0.0	n/a
1999-2000	49.0	n/a	19.9	n/a
2000-01	60.2	n/a	35.3	n/a
2001-02	51.2	n/a	36.7	n/a
2002-03	75.7	n/a	108.6	n/a
2003-04	227.5	n/a	266.1	n/a
2004-05	247.6	n/a	213.7	n/a
2005-06	225.8	n/a	314.3	n/a
2006-07	111.9	208.1	91.3	0.5
2007-08	49.2	267.5	83.9	1.9

Source:
Housing Corporation

We do not set budgets for individual low cost home ownership products which fall within the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing programme.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to increase the stock of affordable housing. [230818]

Mr. Iain Wright: We remain committed to the delivery of affordable housing. We are investing over £8 billion in affordable housing over the three years, 2008-11. This investment is being made initially through the Housing Corporation and then the new Homes and Communities Agency.

Our aspiration is to reach 70,000 new affordable homes a year by 2010-11.

On 2 September we announced a £1 billion housing market package to increase confidence, stability and fairness in the housing market, building on the previous announcements in May and July. These measures include bringing forward £400 million in order to deliver up to 5,500 new social homes over the next 18 months on top of current assumptions and offering up to 10,000 first-time buyers currently frozen out of the mortgage market the chance to get onto the property ladder through a new shared equity scheme, Homebuy Direct which is being offered in partnership with house builders.

As part of this package we will be supporting up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable homeowners facing repossession to remain in their home through a mortgage rescue scheme of £200 million.

Housing: Overcrowding

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Government plans to bring forward new standards for statutory housing over-crowding; and if she will make a statement. [231057]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are committed to addressing overcrowding and to updating the statutory standards. We have invested over £4 million in 38 local authorities this year to enable them to develop strategies and action plans to tackle overcrowding. Part of this funding has been used to collect more robust data on overcrowding which will enable us to assess the cost and impact of updating the statutory standards. We expect to have further evidence from the pathfinders next spring.

Housing: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent from the public purse per head on housing in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in 2007-08. [227989]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally.

Housing: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated to *(a)* the Housing and Planning Delivery Group and *(b)* Growth Point funding for each of the next three years. [230428]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are not aware of a Housing and Planning Delivery Group. However the current funding allocations for the next three years for *(a)* Housing and Planning Delivery Grant and *(b)* Growth Point Funding are set out in the following tables:

Housing and planning delivery grant

£ million

Year	*Planning*	*Housing*	*Total*
1	60	40	100
2	72	88	160
3	62	188	250
Total	194	316	510

Growth point funding

£ million

Year	*1st Round*	*2nd Round*	*Total*
1	89	3	92
2	109	38	147
3	129	59	188
Total	327	100	427

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the criteria are for the allocation of housing and planning delivery grant. [230451]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing and Planning Delivery Grant was established to reward local authorities for improved delivery of housing and other planning outcomes. It consists of a housing and a planning element.

For this year, the housing element is allocated to all local authorities with net additional housing completions above 0.75 per cent. of their existing housing stock. For each net addition above the threshold, the local authority receives one unit of housing grant.

The planning element consists of four components: demonstrating sufficient land for housing in line with planning policy statement 3 through a strategic housing land availability assessment (SHLAA); delivery of core strategies and development plan documents; joint working on the production of any plan document under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and publication of a strategic housing market assessment.

Further information is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/allocationsummaryresponses

Housing: Prices

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has considered the merits of implementing a scheme to narrow the gap between house prices and wages. [227928]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government do not set house price levels or private sector wages. Our current policies aim to increase the supply of housing and widen affordability. The Housing Green Paper published in July 2007 'Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable' (CM 7191), set out our target to raise annual housing supply to 240,000 additional homes a year by 2016 in England.

Housing: Regeneration

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether 2008-09 output targets for the latest round of housing market renewal pathfinders have now been agreed. [230410]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 340W, given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait).

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average length of time taken to complete urgent housing repairs by each local authority was in each of the last five years. [229281]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold data to address the question. The nearest equivalent 'Percentage of urgent repairs completed within Government time limits' is collected by the Department through the annual Local Authority Business Plan Statistical Appendix returns. A table with information for the last five years (2002-03 to 2006-07) has been placed in the Library of the House.

Since 2001, many local authorities have chosen to transfer their entire social stock to registered social landlords through the option of large scale voluntary transfer (LSVT). The table reflects the increasing occurrence of these changes over the five year period as data are only collected from authorities which own their own stock or have set up an arm's length management organisation to manage the stock.

Housing: Statistics

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the withdrawal of housing data in July 2008 due to inconsistencies; and what data were affected. [230311]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Explanatory note published on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/revision.htm

Housing: Students

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether new additional student accommodation in university towns counts towards the building targets in regional spatial strategies. [230656]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communal establishments are not counted in overall housing supply (hence do not count towards the building targets in regional spatial strategies) i.e. establishments providing managed residential accommodation. These cover university and college student accommodation (including self-contained flats clustered into units with four to six bedrooms), hospital staff accommodation, hostels/homes, hotels/holiday complexes, defence establishments (not married quarters) and prisons.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the differences are between a sustainability certificate and an energy performance certificate. [230523]

Mr. Iain Wright: An energy performance certificate records how energy efficient a property is as a building and provides A-G ratings. These are similar to the labels now provided with domestic appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines.

They are produced using standard methods and assumptions about energy usage so that the energy efficiency of one building can easily be compared with another building of the same type.

An energy performance certificate is always accompanied by a recommendation report that lists cost effective and other measures (such as low and zero carbon generating systems) to improve the energy rating. A rating is also given showing what could be achieved if all the recommendations were implemented.

More information about energy performance certificates can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/theenvironment/energyperformance/homes/energyperformancecertificates/.

A sustainability certificate (either an interim or final sustainability certificate) is a certificate issued in accordance with the Code for Sustainable Homes (the code) and records the sustainability of a newly constructed home in nine categories. These include water efficiency, waste, surface water run-off, materials, ecology, pollution, health and well-being and management.

When a newly constructed home is marketed for sale the home information pack must include an energy performance certificate and an interim or final sustainability certificate showing the code rating (from one star to six stars) or a "nil rated" certificate, as set out in the Home Information Pack (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (No. 572). A nil-rated certificate states that the home has been designed to meet building regulations and can be downloaded free of charge from the Communities and Local Government's website.

More information about the Code for Sustainable Homes can be found at

www.communities.gov.uk/thecode

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Infrastructure Planning Commission is expected to be operational. [229670]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1444W.

Intelligent Addressing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 263W, on departmental consultants, for what purpose her Department has hired Intelligent Addressing Ltd to provide National Land and Property Gazetteer address matching. [229619]

Mr. Khan: Intelligent Addressing Ltd. has been hired to integrate the technology systems for FiReControl with data from the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG).

The FiReControl project will deliver a national network of regional control centres for fire and rescue services in England. The centres will provide emergency call handling, mobilisation and incident support services. A key component of the control centres will be a mobilising gazetteer—a list of locations which may be used in the identification of the location of an incident. The Department has made a strategic decision to use the NLPG as the core of the mobilising gazetteer for the regional control centres.

Local Authorities: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have with regard to non-ringfenced grants made according to comprehensive performance assessments; and whether such powers will change under the system of comprehensive area assessments. [229714]

John Healey: Under the comprehensive performance assessment, (CPA) local authorities who were categorised as three or four star authorities received all specific revenue grants on a non-ringfenced basis, other than the Supporting People Grant and those grants passported to schools.

With the introduction of the new local performance framework, of which comprehensive area assessment (CAA) is part, the Government have provided local authorities with greater flexibility in the way they use Government grant more generally. We have increased significantly the amount of funding for all authorities which is not ring-fenced. This year, we introduced the Area Based Grant—a non-ring fenced grant which is planned to be worth £4.7 billion by 2010-11. It is made up of over forty individual grant streams from seven Government Departments. As a non-ring fenced grant, local authorities are free to use it as they see fit to support priorities. There are no links with either the CPA or CAA.

When CPA is replaced by CAA in April 2009, there will be no overall categorisation of local authorities. The future of freedoms and flexibilities under CAA, including ring-fencing, is currently under consideration. An announcement on its future will be made before CAA comes into operation in 2009.

Local Government Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants from her Department are available to local authorities in 2008-09. [229885]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* Grants that are available this year to local authorities by Communities and Local Government are listed as follows.

Supporting People
Housing and Planning Delivery Grant
Disabled Facilities Grant
Housing Defects Grant
Community Infrastructure Fund (for eligible Local Authorities in the Growth areas, Growth Points and Eco-towns)
Gypsy Sites Grant
Homelessness Grant
Housing Market Renewal Fund
Housing Revenue Account Subsidy
Hostels Capital Improvement Programme/Places for Change
Choice-based Lettings
Growth Fund—(for Local Authorities in the Growth Areas and Growth Points)
Area Based Grant
European Regional Development Fund
Performance Reward Grant
Procurement Efficiency Social Housing
Regional Housing Pot Grant
National Indicator 160 Grant
Private Finance Initiative Special Grant
Restoration Fund
Emergency Financial Assistance to local authorities (Bellwin)
Improvement, Transformation and Efficiency (formerly Capacity Building and Local Government Efficiency Challenge)
Council Tax Discount Grant
Invest to Save
Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Schemes
Local E-Government
Local Government Information Management and Systems
General Greater London Authority Grant
National Non Domestic Rate payments—collection costs
National Non Domestic Rates Outturn Adjustments

In addition to these, there is a formula grant which comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula Police Grant, where appropriate.

From time to time my Department also pays grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to the fire authorities in England to meet agreed costs in respect of the New Dimension project and other Fire and Resilience expenditure.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what inspections of local government take place under *(a)* the Charter Mark programme, *(b)* auspices of the Audit Commission and *(c)* both. [230340]

John Healey: The Cabinet Office is responsible for the policy on charter mark which has been replaced by a new standard—Customer Service Excellence. Under this new scheme, organisations are helped to develop a customer focused service.

Audit Commission inspections cover service provision such as housing, environment, benefits and cultural services as well as cross cutting issues such as regeneration and community safety.

There are no joint inspections.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated annual effect on costs to the public purse is across *(a)* central Government, *(b)* the Audit Commission and *(c)* local authorities arising from the shift from comprehensive performance assessment to comprehensive area assessment. [230345]

John Healey: Government have committed to reducing the cost of public service inspection by one-third by 2008-09 compared to 2003-04. Government commissioned the Audit Commission and six other inspectorates who have responsibility relating to inspecting services provided by local authorities and their partners to develop a methodology for the comprehensive area assessment, to be introduced in April 2009. The inspectorates were charged with ensuring the proposals for CAA were consistent with the commitment to reduce costs by one-third, and to explore the potential for further reductions beyond this.

Modelling Transitional Rate Relief Options

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the research report, LGR 65/12/122, on Modelling Transitional Rate Relief Options. [229683]

John Healey: The results of the research report "Modelling Options for Transitional Arrangements" were published in December 2004 and are available on the Department's website.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/localgovernment/modellingoptions

National Land Use Database

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to respond to the recommendations in the National Land Use Database scoping study commissioned by her Department. [230330]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government will consider the recommendations contained in the study and will respond in due course.

Non-domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the deadlines for small firms to submit applications to claim small business rate relief for the *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09 financial years are. [230293]

John Healey: The deadline to apply for small business rate relief in respect of financial year 2006-07 ended on 30 September 2007. The deadline for applying in respect of financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 is 30 September 2010.

Ordnance Survey

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place for the payment of bonuses to officials of Ordnance Survey; and if she will make a statement. [229485]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey operates a performance-related pay system for staff, informed by the 3-Year Corporate Business Plan which is agreed by Ministers, and within a pay remit agreed by Ministers and by HM Treasury. An overall bonus structure is agreed by the Ordnance Survey Remuneration Committee comprising non-executive directors. Subject to annual performance review, staff receive individual pay progression, and may receive an annual agency performance bonus, with the agreement of the Remuneration Committee, if all of Ordnance Survey's Agency Performance Monitors, set by Ministers, are met.

The remuneration of Ordnance Survey directors is subject to performance targets aligned to the Corporate Plan. These targets determine base pay levels and potential for bonuses, and are set by the director general and chief executive for executive directors, and by the Remuneration Committee for the director general and chief executive. Directors' performances and eligibility for bonuses are reviewed annually, and recommendations are subject to approval by the Ordnance Survey Remuneration Committee, within the guidelines set by Cabinet Office.

Place Shaping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition of place shaping is. [230187]

John Healey: The term place-shaping was defined by Sir Michael Lyons as 'the creative use of powers and influence to promote the general well-being of a community and its citizens', and became a key theme in the 2006 Local Government White Paper. The Department's interpretation of this concept is set out in the Statutory Guidance - Creating strong, safe and prosperous communities which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous

Places Community

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the annual cost of her Department's Places Community. [230324]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Places Community was established in September 2008 at a cost of £14,000. Annual costs in future years are estimated at £10,000.

The Community's main aim is to raise awareness and increase usage of various established departmental projects which, collectively, provide a wide range of statistical and geographic evidence around the concept of 'place'.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances a certificate of lawfulness is required in relation to a proposed development; and whether a developer or householder is required to obtain such a certificate if the proposed development does not require planning permission. [230325]

Mr. Iain Wright: Sections 191 and 192 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act provide for anyone to apply to the local planning authority for a lawful development certificate. A certificate confirms the lawfulness—in planning terms only—of a past, present or future use of land, or of existing or proposed building or engineering works, for example. It is not a grant of planning permission and the main purpose of lawful development certificates is to give the applicant certainty and peace of mind on a particular issue. There is, therefore, no requirement to obtain a certificate. It will be for the developer or householder to consider whether to make an application for a lawful development certificate.

Planning Permission: Approved Premises

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether planning authorities may take into account the potential effect on *(a)* crime and disorder and *(b)* fear of crime and disorder when considering a change of use planning application to create a bail hostel. [229635]

Mr. Iain Wright: The courts have held that public fear about the impact of a development is capable of being a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

It is for the local authority to decide, depending on the individual circumstances of a case, how much weight is given to crime and disorder and the fear of such in the determination of a planning application.

Planning: Building Regulations

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given local planning authorities on determining applications to extend *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial properties with regard to compliance with part M of the building regulations; and if she will make a statement. [230995]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Circular 01/06 contains guidance on the requirement for most types of application for planning permission to be accompanied by a design and access statement. These statements seek to ensure that development proposals, amongst other things, demonstrate a sustainable approach to access. Although most types of commercial development require a statement, only a minority of householder applications, for example, those in conservation areas, do so.

Planning: Hammersmith

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what grounds her Department issued the Article 14 notice to stop Hammersmith and Fulham Council granting planning approval for the White City Collaborative Care Centre. [230551]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Article 14 was issued to enable the Secretary of State to consider whether or not she should direct, under Section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, that the application should be called in for her determination.

PPS6

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to *(a)* publish a draft version of PPS6 and *(b)* consult on its content. [229716]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 356W.

Property Searches: Income

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of changes in the level of local authority revenue from land searches in each of the last 12 months. [230407]

Mr. Iain Wright: None.

Regeneration: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1411W, on regeneration: Canvey Island, what assessment she has made of the effect of absence of an additional access road for Canvey Island on the area's regeneration. [230822]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made no assessment of the absence of an additional access road for Canvey Island on the area's regeneration. Regeneration priorities on Canvey Island are for Castle Point borough council to propose in the first instance, as are any assessments of infrastructure requirements.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's contribution to regional development agencies single budget in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 will be. [230346]

John Healey: My Department's indicative contribution to the regional development agencies single programme budget is £1485.097 million for 2009-10 and £1198.326 million for 2010-11.

On 2 September 2008, the Government announced that £300 million would be redirected from my Department's contribution to the RDA single programme budget to fund the Homebuy Direct scheme to help first-time buyers to purchase new build homes. The aforementioned totals given reflect this £300 million redirection, currently profiled as £25 million in 2009-10 and £275 million in 2010-11.

Regional Planning and Development

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average number of planning enforcement officers in local authorities was in the latest period for which figures are available. [229242]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not collected by the Department.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligations local planning authorities have to place maximum parking standards for *(a)* residential and *(b)* non-residential development in their local development frameworks. [229605]

Mr. Iain Wright: In exercising their planning functions local planning authorities are required to have regard to the Government's overarching planning policy on parking which is set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 13: "Transport" (PPG13).

PPG13 is clear that local authority policies in preparing their development plans should set maximum levels of parking for broad classes of development, including residential and non-residential development, and that there should be no minimum standards for development, other than parking for disabled people.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which regional spatial strategies or regional planning guidance documents currently in effect have maximum parking standards in place for *(a)* residential and *(b)* non-residential development. [229607]

Mr. Iain Wright: All Regional Spatial Strategies currently in effect, contain policies relating to parking standards for *(a)* residential and *(b)* non-residential development. Whether these standards are treated as maximums or not depends on the region. These parking standard policies are informed by PPG 13 Transport and PPS3 Housing.

North East—Policy 54

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gone/ourregion/regional_strategies/

The RSS does not define the maximum parking standards for residential and non-residential development, it is the LDF which sets these standards so as to reflect local circumstances.

North West—Policy RT2

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gonw/Planning/RegionalPlanning/

The maximum parking standards cover non-residential developments only.

Yorkshire and Humber—Policy T2

http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/News/2007/
Assembly%20welcomes%20publication%20of%20RSS%20panel%20report/

The maximum parking standards cover non-residential developments only.

East Midlands—Policy 47

http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/psc/suscom/rss/
eastmidlandsplan/

The maximum parking standards cover non-residential developments only.

West Midlands—Policy T7

http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=47

The RSS does not define the maximum parking standards for residential and non-residential development: it is the LDF which sets these standards so as to reflect local circumstances.

East of England—Policy T14

http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=120

The RSS defines the maximum parking standards for residential and non-residential development as set out in PPG 13 Transport; but it is the LDF which interprets these standards so as to reflect local circumstances.

South East—Policy T12

http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/
view_plan.html

The RSS states that local parking standards set out in LDFs for residential and non-residential development have to be line with PPG 13 Transport.

South West—Policy RTS3

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=836

The maximum parking standards cover non-residential developments only.

London—Policies 3C.23 and C3.24

http://www.london.gov.uk/thelondonplan/

The London Plan does define the maximum parking standards for residential, and non-residential development: the boroughs should interpret these standards so as to reflect local circumstances.

Regional Planning and Development: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will instigate an inquiry into Castle Point Borough Council's *(a)* policies and procedures regarding planning enforcement action with respect of building on Green Belt land and *(b)* overall planning enforcement record. [229241]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no plans for such an inquiry.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1638W, on regional planning and development: finance, which Government office or agency funds the *(a)* e-governmental regional partnerships and *(b)* regional equality and diversity partnerships. [229625]

John Healey: These are membership bodies and questions concerning their funding should be addressed to them.

Regional Spatial Strategy: South West

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assumptions of average economic growth per annum to 2026 were made in the preparation of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West. [231259]

Mr. Khan: The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy submitted in April 2006 was based on the assumption that there is a need to plan for economic growth in Gross Value Added of 2.8 per cent.

Proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy published in July 2008 delete this reference and refer to the need to plan for anticipated economic change, supporting growth in line with the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The RES states the region should be prepared for economic growth at a rate of 3.2 per cent.

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total value of right to buy receipts has been in each month of the most recent two years for which figures are available; and what amount has been *(a)* retained by local authorities and *(b)* taken by Government in each such month. [230050]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on local authority right to buy receipts are only collected quarterly. Data on receipts paid back to the Department do not distinguish between right to buy receipts and receipts of sales of dwellings not under the right to buy scheme. The following table sets out the receipts arising from the sales of local authority properties under the right to buy scheme between April 2006 and March 2008.

The table also sets out the amount from the receipts arising from all sales of local authority dwellings that are paid to the Secretary of State.

Figures are based on returns made to CLG by local authorities.

£ million

Quarter	*Total receipts arising from LA RTB sales*	*Total receipts arising from the sales of LA dwellings that are paid to the Secretary of State (provisional)*
April-June 2006	287.1	200.5
July-September 2006	277.9	206.8
October-December 2006	314.2	219.6
January-March 2007	266.2	202.0
April-June 2007	265.9	191.4
July- September 2007	267.6	202.6
October-December 2007	237.8	175.2
January-March 2008	162.7	116.7

Figures for total receipts arising from LA RTB sales are from PIB quarterly returns from local authorities to CLG.

Figures for total receipts arising from the sales of LA dwellings that are paid to the Secretary of State are taken from LOGASNet Returns 2006PO4 and 2007PO4 made to CLG by local authorities as they appeared on 22 October 2008; the figures are subject to correction.

Right to Buy Scheme: Discounts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1996-98W, on the right to buy scheme: discounts, what consideration her Department and its predecessors have given to increasing right to buy discounts in line with house price inflation and appreciation since 1997. [230152]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have no plan to change the current maximum limits on Right to Buy discounts.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1996-98W, on the right to buy scheme: discounts, what assessment her Department or its contractors has made of the effect of the changes in right to buy discounts and eligibility on the affordability of right to buy properties. [230155]

Mr. Iain Wright: The School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol and the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Birmingham carried out a thorough assessment of the impact of the changes to Right to Buy discounts that took effect in February 1999. Copies were placed in the Libraries of both Houses in May 2003. The report is also available on the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government, at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/impact

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what each of the regional and local authority caps for right to buy discounts are. [230191]

Mr. Iain Wright: The current maximum right to buy discount limits determined by the Secretary of State under section 131 of the Housing Act 1985 are:

Area/region	*Maximum RTB discount (£)*
All London boroughs except Barking and Dagenham and Havering	16,000
London boroughs of Barking and Dagenham and Havering	38,000
Chiltern, Epsom and Ewell, Hart, Oxford, Reading, Reigate and Banstead, Tonbridge and Malling, Vale of White Horse, Watford, West Berkshire	16,000
South East region except Chiltern, Epsom and Ewell, Hart, Oxford, Reading, Reigate and Banstead, Tonbridge and Malling, Vale of White Horse, West Berkshire	38,000
Eastern region except Watford	34,000
South West	30,000
North West, West Midlands	26,000
Yorkshire and the Humber, East Midlands	24,000
North East	22,000

Shared Ownership Schemes

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have taken part in Government programmes for *(a)* shared and *(b)* subsidised home ownership; and what the cost of each such programme has been in each year since introduction. [229404]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the outturn expenditure for shared ownership and shared equity schemes provided through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing programme since 1997-98 together with the number of homes that have been provided.

	Shared ownership (£ million)	*Shared equity (£ million)*	*Shared ownership (homes provided)*	*Shared equity (homes provided)*
1997-98	62.0	0.0	4,350	0
1998-99	49.5	0.0	4,244	0
1999-2000	49.0	19.9	2,956	885
2000-01	60.2	35.3	2,551	1,487
2001-02	51.2	36.7	2,211	1,360
2002-03	75.7	108.6	2,315	3,892
2003-04	227.5	266.1	3,550	8,363
2004-05	249.5	213.7	5,741	5,436
2005-06	231.1	314.3	8,637	7,360
2006-07	320.0	91.3	10,954	2,507
2007-08	316.7	83.9	14,780	2,876

Note:
Shared ownership commenced in the mid 1980s but we only have reliable expenditure figures from 1997-98.
Source:
Housing Corporation

Sleeping Rough

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to end rough sleeping *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in London; and if she will make a statement. [230994]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have long recognised that the most visible form of homelessness is that of people sleeping on the streets. In 1998, the then Prime Minister set a target that by 2002 the number of rough sleepers should be reduced by at least two thirds. The target was met ahead of time and is being sustained.

Clearly there is more to be done to help those in need and to drive down rough sleeping numbers to as close to zero as possible. Therefore, we intend to publish a Rough Sleeping Strategy later this year which builds on our success and looks at what we need to do in the future.

In addition, we have announced £200 million funding for local authorities and the voluntary sector over the next three years to help prevent homelessness and tackle rough sleeping. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services, with some £90 million allocated to London alone. We have also funded 258 projects through the £170 million Places of Change programme and its predecessor, 82 of them in London.

Social HomeBuy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2086W, on housing: low incomes, (1) which local authorities and housing associations offer the scheme; and which localities the housing associations cover; [230033]

(2) which *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations in London offer Social Homebuy to their tenants. [230189]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following local authorities offer the voluntary Social HomeBuy scheme to their tenants: London Boroughs of Camden, Croydon, Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth; and Fareham, Harlow and Waveney District Councils.

68 housing associations also offer the scheme to their tenants in all nine regions, including in 25 of the 33 London boroughs. The following table shows the housing associations by regions and local authorities.

List of Housing Associations offering Social HomeBuy by local authorities

Region	*Local authority*	*Housing association*
East Midlands	Ashfield	East Midlands
	Gedling	Accent Nene Ltd
	Leicester	Places for People
	Lincoln	Sanctuary
	North West Leicestershire	East Midlands
	Northampton	Servite
	Nottingham City	Guinness Trust
	Wellingborough	Places for People
Eastern	Basildon	Guinness Trust
		Padington Churches
		South Anglia
	Bedford	Aldwyck
	Broadland	Wherry
	Cambridge	Wherry
	Colchester	Paddington Churches
	Dacorum	Hightown
	East Cambridgeshire	Sanctuary
	East Hertfordshire	Aldwyck

List of Housing Associations offering Social HomeBuy by local authorities

Region	*Local authority*	*Housing association*
		South Anglia
	Harlow	East Thames Group
	Hertsmere	Aldwyck
	Ipswich	Wherry
	Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	Wherry
	Luton	South Anglia
	North Hertfordshire	Paddington Churches
	Peterborough	Accent Nene Ltd.
	South Norfolk	Wherry
	Southend-on-Sea	Estuary
	Thurrock	Southern Housing Group Ltd.
London	Barking and Dagenham	East Thames Group
		Peabody Trust
	Bexley	Downland
		Gallions
	Brent	Metropolitan Housing Trust
		Paddington Churches
	Bromley	Broomleigh
	Camden	Community
	Croydon	Moat House
		Peabody Trust
		Presentation
	Ealing	Acton
		ASRA Greater London
		Catalyst Housing Group Ltd
	Greenwich	Gallions
		Peabody Trust
	Hackney	Circle 33
		Family Mosaic Housing
		Guinness Trust
	Hammersmith and Fulham	Notting Hill
	Haringey	Circle 33
		Peabody Trust
		Presentation
	Harrow	Metropolitan Housing Trust
	Havering	East Thames Group
	Hillingdon	Metropolitan Housing Trust
		Peabody Trust
	Hounslow	Places for People
	Islington	Circle 33
		Family Mosaic Housing
	Kensington and Chelsea	Notting Hill
		Octavia Housing
	Lambeth	Peabody Trust
		Presentation
	Lewisham	London and Quadrant Housing Trust
	Newham	Asra Greater London
		East Thames Group
		Southern Housing Group Ltd
	Redbridge	East Thames Group
	Southwark	Family Mosaic Housing
		Southern Housing Group Ltd
	Tower Hamlets	East Thames Group
		Newlon
		Southern Housing Group Ltd
	Waltham Forest	Circle 33
		East Thames Group
		Family Mosaic Housing
	Wandsworth	London and Quadrant Housing Trust
	Blyth Valley	Places for People
	Chester-Le-Street	Three Rivers
	Darlington	Three Rivers
	Derwentside	Three Rivers
	Easington	Three Rivers
	Gateshead	Three Rivers
	Hartlepool	Housing Hartlepool
		Three Rivers
	Middlesbrough	William Sutton Trust
	Newcastle Upon Tyne	Guinness Trust
		Nomad
	North Tyneside	Nomad
	Redcar and Cleveland	Three Rivers
	Sedgefield	Three Rivers
	South Tyneside	Three Rivers
		William Sutton Trust
	Sunderland	Home Group Limited
		Three Rivers
	Teesdale	Three Rivers
	Wear Valley	Three Rivers
North West	Allerdale	Home Group Limited
	Barrow-In-Furness	Accent Corporate Services
	Blackburn	Places for People
	Burnley	Accent Corporate Services Places For People
	Chorley	Places For People
	Copeland	Home Group Limited
	Crewe and Nantwich	Sanctuary
	Hyndburn	Places For People
	Knowsley	Knowsley Housing Trust
	Liverpool	CDS Housing
		Contour
		Regenda
		Riverside
	Manchester	Contour
		Guinness Trust
		Manchester Methodist
		Places For People
	Oldham	Manchester Methodist

List of Housing Associations offering Social HomeBuy by local authorities

Region	*Local authority*	*Housing association*
		Regenda
	Preston	Places For People
	Rossendale	Places For People
	Sefton	Greater Hornby
		Servite
	St. Helens	Helena
	Tameside	Regenda
	Wirral	Regenda
South East	Arun	Servite
	Ashford	Moat Homes
		Southern Housing Group Ltd.
	Aylesbury Vale	Hightown
	Basingstoke and Deane	Sentinel Housing Association Ltd.
	Brighton and Hove	Southern Housing Group Ltd.
	Canterbury	Sanctuary
	Cherwell	Catalyst Housing Group Ltd.
	Crawley	Guinness Trust
	East Hampshire	Swaythling
	Eastbourne	Places For People
	Milton Keynes	Aldwyck
	New Forest	Swaythling
	Reading	Thames Valley
	Southampton	Swaythling
	Test Valley	Aster
		Testway
	Tunbridge Wells	Town & Country Housing
	Wealden	Home Group Limited
	West Berkshire	Sovereign
	Windsor and Maidenhead	Swaythling
	Worthing	Southern Housing Group Ltd.
South West	Bath and North East Somerset	Somer Community
		Western Challenge
	Bournemouth	Western Challenge
	Bristol	Knightstone
		Places For People
	Bristol	Sovereign
	Cheltenham	Sanctuary
South West	Christchurch	Western Challenge
	Exeter	Sovereign
		Western Challenge
	Gloucester	Aster
	Mendip	Western Challenge
	North Cornwall	Western Challenge
	North Dorset	Western Challenge
	North Wiltshire	Western Challenge
	Plymouth	Devon & Cornwall
		Guinness Trust
		Sovereign
		Western Challenge
	Poole	Swaythling
		Western Challenge
	Salisbury	Swaythling
	South Gloucestershire	Western Challenge
	Swindon	Western Challenge
	Tewkesbury	Evesham & Pershore
West Midlands	Birmingham	Bromford
		Mercian
		Midland Heart
		Servite
		West Mercia
	Coventry	Guinness Trust
	Lichfield	Mercian
	Malvern Hills	Elgar
	Sandwell	Accord
	Stoke-on-Trent	Empowering People
		Sanctuary
	The Wrekin	Wrekin Housing Trust
	Wolverhampton	Bromford
	Worcester City	West Mercia
	Wychavon	Evesham & Pershore
		Spa Housing Association
Yorkshire and Humberside	Bradford	Manningham
		Places For People
		William Sutton Trust
	Kingston Upon Hull	Places For People
		William Sutton Trust
	Leeds	William Sutton Trust
	Sheffield	Places For People
	York	Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a full copy of the recent Planning Inspectorate ruling in relation to the retrospective planning application for a traveller site in Minety, Wiltshire. [230414]

Mr. Iain Wright: A copy of the decision (reference APP/J3910/A/08/2064463) has been placed in the Library.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on small groups of local authorities working together to produce a joint strategy to make provision for Travellers on *(a)* a temporary and *(b)* a permanent basis; what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the matter; and if she will make a statement. [230427]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: The Housing Act 2004 requires local authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in and resorting to their area and to act strategically to prepare a strategy in respect of the meeting of such accommodation needs.

The Department welcomes joint working between local authorities in planning for the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across local authority and regional boundaries. Many local authorities have already produced their Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments in partnership with neighbouring areas. Planning policy on Gypsy and Traveller sites is contained within ODPM Circular 01/2006 "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites". This confirms that joint Development Plan Documents can be prepared on a sub-regional basis to identify the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites, so long as there is agreement by all of the local planning authorities involved.

Travelling People: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the period of time is that the Valuation Office Agency uses to determine whether a traveller caravan is too transient for occupation of the caravan to be rated for council tax purposes. [229631]

John Healey: It is the transience of the site or pitch that is relevant, not the transience of the occupation. Where a Traveller's caravan occupies a non-established site or pitch for a period materially less than 12 months, with no sign of likely future use, this will generally be regarded as too transient to establish the pitch as a dwelling. For established sites or pitches, even if the occupier changes often, a banding will apply and liability to council tax will remain.

Urban Areas: Parking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of prices for town centre parking on town centre regeneration and town centre economies. [230540]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State has made no such assessment. Our expectation is that local authorities will, where appropriate, develop car parking strategies, which address issues like pricing, as part of their preparation of local transport plans and broader regeneration and economic development activities.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Attorney-General: Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General how many civil servants in the Attorney-General's Office were seconded to work for *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229110]

The Solicitor-General: None.

CPS Direct

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Solicitor-General what the target response time is for answering calls to CPS Direct; what the average response time was for calls in each of the last five years; and how many calls were made in each year. [230585]

The Solicitor-General: CPS Direct has collated data on response times to the police since September 2004. From April 2005, a target was set to answer 90 per cent. of calls within 15 seconds. The number of calls answered, charging advices given and response times since that date have been as follows:

	Total calls received	*Total charging advices*	*Successful call rate (percentage)*	*Percentage calls answered in under 15 seconds (target 90 per cent.)*	*Average response time for all calls answered (seconds)*
2004-05[1]	74,088	38,076	51.4	—	47.37
2005-06	157,511	96,108	61.0	85.7	35.11
2006-07	183,034	127,911	69.9	82.3	32.18
2007-08	171,426	135,813	79.2	93.2	22.42
2008-09[2, 3]	88,568	73,066	82.5	87.4	24.32

[1] Seven months from September 2004
[2] Six months to September 2008
[3] The projected full year totals for 2008-09 are:
Total calls received: 177-178,000;
Total charging advices: 146-147,000

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Solicitor-General what the annual running costs of CPS Direct are; how many staff CPS Direct employs, including duty prosecutors; and what the annual expenditure on staff was in each of the last five years. [230586]

The Solicitor-General: The annual budget for CPS Direct for the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Total budget (£)
2004-05	5,206,820
2005-06	9,236,400
2006-07	11,842,400
2007-08	12,787,356
2008-09	13,545,072

As at 24 October 2008, CPS Direct employs 123.5 duty prosecutors, 12 legal managers, four senior managers and 11 central support staff.

The annual expenditure on the staff of CPS Direct over the last five years is shown in the following table.

£

	Duty prosecutors	Central support team	Total
2004-05	4,515,597	140,587	4,656,184
2005-06	8,560,402	250,708	8,811,110
2006-07	10,885,243	318,434	11,203,677
2007-08	12,015,065	330,753	12,345,818
2008-09[1]	12,725,673	367,351	13,093,024

[1] Budget.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Solicitor-General in how many Crown Prosecution Service areas Crown Prosecution Direct is fully operational. [230587]

The Solicitor-General: Since 1 April 2006, CPS Direct has operated nationally across all CPS areas in England and Wales.

Criminal Proceedings

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Solicitor-General in how many and what percentage of cases *(a)* a guilty plea was registered and *(b)* a conviction resulted in (i) Crown Courts and (ii) magistrates courts in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [230588]

The Solicitor-General: The following tables show, for each of the last 10 years, the number of defendants whose case was completed in magistrates courts and in the Crown court, together with the number and proportion which resulted in a conviction and in an unsuccessful outcome.

Convictions are divided into those cases in which the defendant pleaded guilty, and those convicted after trial. Additionally, convictions in magistrates courts include those proceedings, mostly minor motoring matters, which were proved in the absence of the defendant. Unsuccessful outcomes comprise all outcomes other than a conviction.

Against a background of falling crime, and hence of falling case loads, convictions in magistrates courts rose from 76.8 per cent. of completed cases in 1998-99 to 85.7 per cent. in 2007-08. In the Crown court, convictions rose over the same period from 77.8 per cent. to 79.3 per cent. These figures illustrate the growing success of the CPS in ensuring that offenders are brought to justice. In particular, the decisive trend towards rising conviction rates over the last five years underlines the positive benefits of Statutory Charging, under which the CPS is responsible for determining the charges in all more serious, complex, and contested cases, particularly those in which the liberty of the individual is at risk.

Crown court

	Guilty pleas	%	Conviction after trial	%	Total convictions	%	Unsuccessful outcomes	%	Total prosecutions
1998-99	59,374	66.2	10,378	11.6	69,752	77.8	19,892	22.2	89,644
1999-2000	55,407	63.8	10,530	12.1	65,937	75.9	20,894	24.1	86,831
2000-01	51,596	62.5	9,820	11.9	61,416	74.4	21,183	25.6	82,599
2001-02	51,824	61.5	9,925	11.8	61,749	73.2	22,575	26.8	84,324
2002-03	58,624	62.0	11,613	12.3	70,237	74.3	24,309	25.7	94,546
2003-04	59,537	62.5	11,255	11.8	70,792	74.3	24,436	25.7	95,228
2004-05	58,222	64.1	10,059	11.1	68,281	75.1	22,609	24.9	90,890
2005-06	60,252	67.0	8,734	9.7	68,986	76.7	20,984	23.3	89,970
2006-07	60,918	68.1	8,200	9.2	69,118	77.3	20,290	22.7	89,408
2007-08	69,242	71.4	7,705	7.9	76,947	79.3	20,045	20.7	96,992

Magistrates court

	Guilty pleas	%	Proofs in absence	%	Conviction after trial	%	Total convictions	%	Unsuccessful outcomes	%	Total prosecutions
1998-99	811,335	64.3	113,426	9.0	43,993	3.5	968,754	76.8	292,106	23.2	1,260,860
1999-2000	824,888	64.5	117,396	9.2	40,163	3.1	982,447	76.8	297,146	23.2	1,279,593
2000-01	774,453	64.0	116,953	9.7	35,117	2.9	926,523	76.5	284,124	23.5	1,210,647
2001-02	781,878	64.2	114,509	9.4	33,251	2.7	929,638	76.4	287,743	23.6	1,217,[illegible]81
2002-03	811,583	63.9	126,518	10.0	35,834	2.8	973,935	76.7	295,728	23.3	1,269,663
2003-04	800,525	63.4	152,757	12.1	40,167	3.2	993,449	78.7	268,376	21.3	1,261,825
2004-05	716,082	62.2	169,681	14.7	42,432	3.7	928,195	80.6	223,709	19.4	1,151,904
2005-06	674,925	63.2	168,874	15.8	38,038	3.6	881,837	82.6	185,524	17.4	1,067,364
2006-07	646,181	65.4	150,741	15.3	34,979	3.5	831,901	84.2	156,080	15.8	987,981
2007-08	652,018	67.5	139,618	14.4	36,899	3.8	828,535	85.7	138,091	14.3	966,626

Crown Prosecution Service: Standards

David Taylor: To ask the Solicitor-General what recent representations she has received on the performance of the Crown Prosecution Service; and if she will make a statement. [230368]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General and I maintain an active overview of the performance of the CPS, and carefully consider all representations received. In addition to the CPS' published Performance Management Information, HM Crown Prosecution Inspectorate reports to the Attorney-General on particular aspects of CPS performance and on its regular inspections of each CPS area. To ensure that we have an opportunity to discuss any performance issues, as well as wider policy questions, we have frequent meetings with the DPP and chief executive. The CPS has, of course, a full complaints procedure, which the Attorney-General oversees, and MPs have the opportunity to raise with me any aspect of the CPS' performance which causes them concern.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General how much was spent on overnight accommodation by Law Officers Departments officials in the last 12 months. [228781]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows the amount spent on overnight accommodation for the last 12 months, for civil servants within the Law Officers' Departments:

	Total cost of overnight accommodation (£)
Attorney-General's Office	5,534.78
Crown Prosecution Service	[1]1,384,269
Serious Fraud Office	243,041.84
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office	112,096.86
Treasury Solicitors Department and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	[1]26,750

[1] This includes some night subsistence and other allowances, which cannot be readily separated from the costs of overnight accommodation.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by her Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228744]

The Solicitor-General: The number of people recruited over the ages of 55 and 60 in 2007-08 is illustrated in the following table.

	(a) Over 55		*(b) Over 60*	
	Number of new recruits in 2007-08	*Percentage of total new recruits*	*Number of new recruits in 2007-08*	*Percentage of total new recruits*
Attorney-General's Office	0	0	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	2	1.8	1	0.9
Crown Prosecution Service	31	4	13	1.6
Serious Fraud Office	2	4.88	0	0
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office	0	0	0	0
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	1	16.67	0	0

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) the Attorney-General's Office and (ii) the agency sponsored by the Office in each year since 2001. [228958]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows the number of passes lost and stolen by staff in the Law Officers' Departments since 2001.

	Attorney-General's Office[1]		*Treasury Solicitor's Department*[2]		*Crown Prosecution Service*		*Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office*[3]		*HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate*[4]		*Serious Fraud Office*	
	Lost	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*
2001	—	—	—	—	12	2	—	—	—	—	12	1
2002	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	5	3
2003	—	—	—	—	2	47	—	—	—	—	5	0
2004	—	—	—	—	3	51	—	—	—	—	5	0
2005	—	—	8	5	1	2	—	—	—	—	10	0
2006	—	—	49	2	8	22	—	—	2	0	8	0
2007	3	0	166	7	5	7	4	1	3	0	16	2
2008	3	0	105	2	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Prior to 2007, this was recorded by the Treasury Solicitor's Department.

[2] Figures are not available before August 2005.

[3] Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) came into being on 18 April 2005 and until November 2007, the control of building security passes was the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs. RCPO does not have access to their records.

[4] HMCPSI figures are calculated for 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Fraud

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases of fraud exceeding £1 million the Fraud Prosecution Service has handled since September 2006. [229390]

The Solicitor-General: The Fraud Prosecution Service does not routinely record this information. To obtain it, by reference to individual case files, would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9).

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases have been referred to the Joint Vetting Committee since the Fraud Prosecution Service's formation in September 2006. [229391]

The Solicitor-General: The Fraud Prosecution Service has not referred any cases to the Joint Vetting Committee since September 2006. One case was referred to the Joint Vetting Committee in early 2006 during the formation period of the Fraud Prosecution Service.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the expansion of the City of London's Economic Crime Department on the flow of cases to the Serious Fraud Office. [229393]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has worked closely with the City of London police (CoLP) for many years. Both organisations collaborate on many levels, from full joint working on cases, to sharing specialist expertise and skills. This is not expected to change following the expansion of the CoLP's economic crime department. Moreover, as the SFO continues its transformation programme, it is continually building on its relationships with other organisations and will continue to work closely with the CoLP.

The SFO will continue to work on those cases that are proper to its remit, that is, cases involving serious or complex fraud and corruption. It will also continue to forge links with other organisations, supporting them as required with specialist expertise.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what the cost to the Serious Fraud Office was of reviewing 36 Fraud Prosecution Service case files for Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate's Review of the Fraud Prosecution Service. [229394]

The Solicitor-General: A member of staff was seconded to the team at Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) and there was no additional cost to the organisation outside of the normal remuneration.

Law Officers' Department: Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General which companies were used by the Law Officers' Departments for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229091]

The Solicitor-General: The following table show the companies that have been used by the Attorney-General's Office, Treasury Solicitors Department (TSol) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate for providing temporary staff in each of the last five financial years (records for these three Departments are held centrally by TSol and cannot be separated without incurring a disproportionate cost):

Company	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
AT Kearney Ltd.	—	—	—	—	9,000
Abraxas Plc	—	—	30,000	46,000	144,000
Adecco UK Ltd	843,000	683,000	956,000	1,104,000	1,349,000
Allen Lane Financial Recruitment Consultants	—	—	—	23,000	58,000
Angela Mortimer Plc	—	5,000	410,000	1,065,000	1,118,000
Anvil Communications Ltd.	—	—	—	—	100,000
Aptus Personnel Ltd.	10,000	—	—	—	—
ASA group	50,000	18,000	—	—	—
Austin Benn Consultants Ltd.	—	—	—	36,000	42,000
Badenoch andClark	806,000	815,000	848,000	1,402,000	1,460,000
Barnett Personnel Ltd.	38,000	—	—	—	—
Bevan Brittan LLP	—	—	—	32,000	44,000
Blue Arrow Ltd.	48,000	39,000	41,000	4,000	—
Brook Street (UK) Ltd.	75,000	133,000	60,000	34,000	3,000
Capita Health Solutions Ltd.	—	—	—	1,000	—
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	22,000	26,000	12,000	33,000	40,000
Capita SHG Resourcing	25,000	82,000	1,000	—	42,000
Cilip Government Libraries Group	—	1,000	—	—	—
City Centre Recruitment	1,000	—	—	—	—
Consult RS Ltd.	387,000	328,000	214,000	168,000	172,000
Crown Costs Consultants Ltd	—	—	—	—	23,000
Dickinson Dees	—	—	—	—	72,000
Elan Computing Ltd.	514,000	571,000	506,000	297,000	161,000
Erminia Business Services Ltd.	—	—	—	—	22,000
Eurobase People Industry Leading Resources	—	—	—	28,000	42,000
Financial Services Authority	—	—	—	—	3,000
Generic Software Consultants Ltd.	5,000	10,000	—	—	—
Geoff Farmer & Co Ltd.	—	—	—	—	9,000
George Harrington & Co	7,000	—	—	—	40,000
Glotel International Ltd.	20,000	93,000	116,000	101,000	86,000
Hassell Free Filing	1,000	—	—	—	—

Company	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Hays Accountancy Personnel	—	1,000	22,000	6,000	—
Hays Construction and Property	—	12,000	45,000	9,000	66,000
Hewitson Walker	181,000	351,000	77,000	262,000	681,000
HSBC Invoice Finance (UK) Ltd.	4,000	—	—	—	—
Hudson Global Resources	118,000	182,000	220,000	112,000	323,000
Hudson Shribman	60,000	58,000	66,000	100,000	43,000
Huntress Recruitment Specialists	22,000	4,000	43,000	48,000	22,000
Jonathan Wren	—	—	2,000	—	—
Josephine Sammons Ltd.	132,000	145,000	102,000	134,000	150,000
Kelly Services (UK) Ltd.	—	—	15,000	12,000	—
Law Temps Agency	32,000	—	—	—	—
Lawson Bishop Financial	—	—	—	21,000	1,000
M.J.D. Costs Consultancy	—	—	—	—	2,000
Manchester City Council	—	—	—	20,000	—
Mark Pearson Communications Ltd.	—	—	5,000	20,000	51,000
MG Morton	—	—	—	—	5,000
Michael Page UK Ltd.	98,000	31,000	—	—	—
Office Angels Ltd.	14,000	27,000	31,000	—	—
Opus Personnel (City) Ltd.	498,000	524,000	201,000	13,000	—
Page Personnel	3,000	3,000	22,000	52,000	75,000
Parity Resources Ltd.	—	—	—	—	11,000
Parity Training Ltd.	—	—	—	—	31,000
Paymaster (1836) Ltd.	3,000	—	—	—	—
Pro Law	64,000	36,000	—	—	—
Quo Imus Ltd.	—	—	—	32,000	71,000
Raymond W. Bone	—	—	—	—	8,000
Robert Half Ltd.	—	—	—	—	5,000
SFW Ltd.	—	25,000	47,000	—	—
Staple Inn Recruitment Ltd.	528,000	517,000	345,000	275,000	120,000
Step Ahead	—	8,000	82,000	14,000	12,000
Stephanie Grundy	16,000	—	—	—	—
Stopgap Ltd.	—	—	44,000	32,000	—
Sue Corbin	—	—	—	—	8,000
TFPL Ltd.	9,000	13,000	22,000	25,000	21,000
The Chartered Inst of Lib. and info. Profession	37,000	22,000	—	—	—
Venn Group	19,000	—	—	—	—
Williams Lea Facilities Management Ltd.	83,000	—	—	—	—
Total	4,771,000	4,765,000	4,589,000	5,559,000	6,747,000

The following table show the companies that have been used by the Crown Prosecution Service for providing temporary staff in each of the last five financial years:

Company	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Barnett Personnel	270,326	250,828	—	—	—
Hudson Global Resources Ltd.	206,781	—	277,770	144,575	55,763
Capita Business Services Ltd.	182,599	82,089	—	—	—
Michael Page International	159,408	—	—	—	—
Office Angels	106,692	114,876	71,483	128,081	116,700
Brook Street (UK) Ltd.	96,257	287,793	656,079	639,296	299,402
Pathway It Resourcing	74,542	—	—	—	—
Parity Resources Ltd.	73,588	—	—	—	—
Robert Walters London	70,523	164,530	194,850	96,587	—
Generic Software Consultants	62,693	—	—	—	—
Kelly Services (UK) Ltd.	59,287	93,059	—	—	—
Hays Accountancy Personnel	54,634	264,835	408,775	588,573	341,325
Hudson Global Resources Ltd.	—	335,952	—	—	—
Reed Employment Plc	—	186,002	747,667	511,233	160,244
Adecco UK Ltd.	—	175,387	386,444	243,555	50,376
Select Appointments Plc	—	128,316	107,068	—	—
Manpower UK Ltd.	—	128,033	200,140	143,086	—
Parity Resources Ltd.	—	101,236	164,107	177,563	—

Company	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Eclipse Organisation Ltd.	—	87,213	75,651	—	—
First Choice Recruitment	—	83,294	—	—	—
Step Ahead	—	65,063	—	—	—
Pro Ltd.	—	60,958	—	—	—
Pertemps Group of Companies	—	60,900	—	—	—
Quality Technology Solutions Ltd.	—	57,558	—	—	—
Reigate Thorn Baker Ltd. Nottingham		50,569			
Praxis	—	—	259,763	74,891	—
Morgan Law Recruitment Consultancy Ltd.	—	—	176,065	131,652	—
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	—	—	114,014	163,830	52,342
Whitgift Solutions Ltd.	—	—	55,799	55,589	—
Essex Police Authority	—	—	—	141,167	—
MSB International	—	—	—	71,483	75,636
Badenoch and Clark	—	—	—	63,621	—
Nesco IT Altrincham	—	—	—	—	72,611
Reed Personnel Services Plc	—	—	—	—	54,434
Employment Plus Ltd.	—	—	—	—	50,689
Cranleigh QI Consulting London SE1	—	—	—	—	50,587
Total	1,.417,330	2,778,491	3,895,675	3,347,782	1,380,109

Note:

2004-05 figures include payments from 1 August only; data for the full financial year, and earlier years, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost due to changes in the Department's finance systems. Data for 2008-09 are for the six months to 30 September 2008.

The following table show the companies that have been used by the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) for providing temporary staff in each of the last five financial years:

Company	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Allen Lane Financial Recruitment Consultants	—	6,544	62,016	50,282
Amanda Smith Recruitment	—	—	16,520	11,634
Badenoch and Clark	18,040	26,724	30,152	—
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	48,857	89,676	394	—
City Centre Recruitment	129,707	568,495	616,464	374,945
Hudson Global Resources Ltd.	—	124,701	296,641	28,463
Josephine Sammons Ltd.	—	5,374	32,714	14,230
Law Absolute Ltd.	—	—	79,776	13,608
Page Personnel	—	—	1,563	9,323
Robert Half Ltd.	—	—	10,125	6,462
Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Ltd.	—	—	16,290	16,153
Systems Accountants Ltd.	—	12,549	46,596	5,752
TFPL Ltd.	—	5,740	6,110	10,575
Total	196,603	839,804	1,215,630	541,609

Note:

RCPO came into being on 18 April 2005

Law Officers' Department: Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General how many civil servants in the Law Officers' Departments were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229191]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments do not have any staff recruited through the fast stream.

Statistics on intake into the Fast Stream as a whole are published annually at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov uk/reports/faststream.

Copies are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 28 October 2008

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has for the future use of lifelong learning networks; and if he will make a statement. [229004]

Mr. Lammy: The Government and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), which funds the lifelong learning networks, are committed to the ongoing sustainability of their work. HEFCE has now invested approximately £105 million across 2005-11 in 30 LLNs.

The Government and HEFCE are in no doubt about the value of LLNs. Their focus on progression and widening opportunity means that they can make an important contribution to a number of the Government's strategic objectives including lifelong learning, credit transfer, articulation arrangements between higher education programmes and the qualifications and credit framework, employer engagement and workplace learning, and progression from the 14-19 diplomas.

HEFCE's intention from the start was, and remains, that the initiatives of the LLNs must become embedded in the core business of institutions in order to survive long term. Each LLN was obliged to set out in its business case how it would meet longer term sustainability costs. HEFCE's arrangements for funding the LLNs sought explicitly to help institutions to work collaboratively by putting in place a number of processes and procedures. Although the early stages of this work were bound to be time consuming and expensive, HEFCE expects core LLN commitments to become part of the routine for partners as relationships and structures develop.

The extent of LLN continuing activity will depend on how embedded each network becomes and that, in the end, depends on the commitment of the partner institutions. HEFCE has already acknowledged that networks may require additional time and space to plan a phased approach to sustainability, and LLNs have therefore been invited to re-profile the latter phases of their HEFCE funding. There should also be opportunities for LLNs to contribute more fully in key strategic areas such as employer engagement, for which they could potentially access further substantial resources from HEFCE.

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on participation rates on concessionary fees in adult education under the age discrimination regulations. [228241]

Mr. Simon: The Government are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all learners, and that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the workforce. Our strategy for world class skills and our reforms of wider adult learning are designed to ensure that everyone, whatever their age or background, has the opportunity to improve their skills, prospects and quality of life.

Protection from discrimination on grounds of age was introduced in the area of employment and vocational training through the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. The Regulations mean that further education and training providers are not allowed to set age limits for access to training unless they can show objective justification why there is a real need to apply such limits. The Government has decided that all courses at further and higher education institutions are covered by the age regulations, whether they are specifically vocational or more general in nature. This ensures that there is a unified and consistent approach to age-related practices and policies in relation to all such provision.

Fee concessions for further education provision are offered at the discretion (and cost) of individual colleges and other FE providers, such as local authorities, and I must stress that the regulations do not bar providers from offering these fee discounts. Many colleges and other providers have longstanding, formal, informal and discretionary arrangements based on age when deciding eligibility for fee concessions, and it will continue to be the learning provider's decision as to whether to offer these subsidies to individuals. As a result, neither my Department nor the Learning and Skills Council holds information on those learners who receive these concessions.

I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 35WS:

> "Guidance on the vocational training aspects of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations is available on the DTI website. It is aimed at, amongst others, providers of further and adult education. The guidance makes it clear that age related practices, such as age related fee concessions, may be objectively justified where they are a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. It is for providers to produce evidence of such objective justification if called upon to do so, or to take their own legal advice if necessary. Guidance on objective justification is also available on page 30 of the ACAS guidance on the Age Regulations".

Aimhigher Programme

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff are employed full-time on the Aimhigher programme. [227427]

Mr. Lammy: Information on the number of people who are employed by Aimhigher partnerships is not held centrally. Regions and areas have also taken different approaches to the employment of staff. In some areas, there are full-time dedicated Aimhigher co-ordinators, while in others Aimhigher is part of a larger job role. A number of staff in HE institutions, schools and colleges are also involved in the programme for part of their time, including those teachers and lecturers who deliver summer schools, masterclasses and other activities.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* surveys taken among his Department's employees since its inception and *(b)* written analysis of their findings. [229018]

Mr. Simon: The Department is currently undertaking the first all-staff survey since its creation on 28 June 2007 under machinery of government changes. The results of the survey will be published on the DIUS website when the survey is completed.

GCE A-level

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1504W, on GCSE A-Level, if he will place in the Library the same data for *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06 and *(e)* 2007-08. [230632]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans the Government has to *(a)* simplify higher education funding and *(b)* increase the transparency of higher education funding. [230016]

Mr. Lammy: The principles upon which public funding for higher education is allocated are transparent even if they are not always simple. Any system of higher education funding which is fit-for-purpose has to start by recognising the diversity of both students, providers and sources of funding—both public and private. We are in the middle of a debate with both providers and users of higher education to establish a long term framework for higher education against which future options for the shape of higher education funding, including decisions on tuition fee and student support arrangements, can properly be assessed.

Higher Education: Research

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much quality-related funding has been awarded to each of the UK's universities since 2002. [228640]

Mr. Lammy: Higher education funding is a devolved matter. Within England, quality-related research funding (QR) is allocated and distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The following table sets out QR funding from HEFCE from 2002/03 to 2008/09.

Figures are in cash terms, and include late grant adjustments, and reflect mergers. Figures exclude research capability funds.

£ million

Institution name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Anglia Ruskin University	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Aston University	4.7	5.0	5.6	6.3	6.9	7.0	6.8
University of Bath	11.8	12.7	13.4	16.3	17.5	18.0	18.7
Bath Spa University	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
University of Bedfordshire	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Birkbeck College	6.4	6.8	7.2	8.8	9.5	9.8	9.8
University of Birmingham	29.3	32.8	34.1	37.9	41.0	42.8	44.1
BCU	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8
University of Bolton	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.3	0.3	0.3
Bournemouth University	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
University of Bradford	5.4	5.5	5.9	6.4	6.6	6.7	7.0
University of Brighton	3.3	3.5	3.4	4.1	4.4	[illegible]	4.7
University of Bristol	28.8	31.3	32.5	37.9	41.3	43.2	44.6
Brunel University	6.2	6.3	6.6	7.6	8.1	8.3	8.1
Buckinghamshire New University	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Cambridge	67.8	77.4	82.0	92.4	99.7	107.1	111.6
Institute of Cancer Research	8.6	9.7	10.7	12.5	14.1	16.2	19.4
Canterbury Christ Church University	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Central Lancashire	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8
University of Chester	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Chichester	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
City University, London	4.9	4.5	4.6	5.2	5.9	6.1	6.4
Courtauld Institute of Art	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
Coventry University	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Cranfield University	4.7	4.2	4.3	5.5	5.6	9.6	9.8
University for the Creative Arts	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Cumbria	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
De Montfort University	4.2	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.1
University of Derby	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Durham	15.9	17.2	17.6	21.4	23.1	23.7	23.9

Institution name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ million* *2008-09*
University of East Anglia	11.0	12.3	12.5	14.1	15.1	15.5	15.3
University of East London	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
Edge Hill University	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Institute of Education	5.2	6.1	6.4	7.6	8.2	8.5	8.7
University of Essex	7.6	8.3	8.5	9.8	10.5	11.0	11.3
University of Exeter	9.2	10.2	10.8	12.9	13.6	14.2	14.6
University College Falmouth	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
University of Gloucestershire	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Goldsmiths College	6.2	6.3	6.4	7.7	8.1	8.4	8.6
University of Greenwich	1.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.3	[illegible]
Harper Adams University College	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Hertfordshire	2.1	1.5	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.5
University of Huddersfield	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5
University of Hull	5.1	4.8	4.8	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.3
Imperial College	60.7	69.7	71.6	82.4	85.6	91.8	97.7
Keele University	4.8	4.7	4.8	6.2	6.7	6.8	6.8
University of Kent	5.6	5.4	5.5	7.2	7.7	8.0	8.1
King's College London	37.5	40.8	42.5	48.9	52.9	58.4	60.0
Kingston University	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
Lancaster University	11.9	12.7	13.2	15.8	17.2	17.7	17.7
University of Leeds	31.0	34.9	36.0	42.1	45.7	46.9	48.5
Leeds Metropolitan University	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Leeds Trinity and All Saints	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Leicester	12.6	12.8	13.6	16.1	17.7	18.4	18.8
University of Lincoln	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Liverpool	21.7	22.6	23.1	26.3	28.4	29.8	32.5
Liverpool Hope University	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Liverpool John Moores University	2.3	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.2
University of the Arts London	6.4	7.0	7.1	8.7	9.4	9.7	9.7
University of London	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.1
London Business School	3.3	3.4	3.3	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.7
London Sch. of Economics and Political Sci	11.9	13.2	13.8	16.3	17.6	18.1	18.3
London Sch. of Hygiene and Tropical Med.	4.7	6.0	6.2	6.8	7.8	10.4	10.7
London Metropolitan University	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
London South Bank University	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3
Loughborough University	11.0	11.3	12.2	14.3	15.2	15.6	16.2
University of Manchester	51.8	58.1	60.6	68.9	74.3	77.0	82.2
Manchester Metropolitan University	3.2	2.4	2.5	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1
Middlesex University	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2
University of Newcastle	22.9	25.9	26.6	30.7	32.1	32.9	34.0
Newman University College	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Northampton	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Northumbria University	1.3	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.2
Norwich University College of the Arts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Nottingham	25.3	28.8	30.1	34.0	37.0	39.3	40.7
Nottingham Trent University	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.3
Open University	6.2	5.6	5.8	7.2	7.7	7.9	7.4
School of Oriental and African Studies	4.6	5.1	5.1	6.1	6.6	6.8	7.6
University of Oxford	64.9	76.0	79.6	90.2	97.5	104.2	110.1
Oxford Brookes University	2.1	1.7	1.7	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.5
School of Pharmacy	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.3
University of Plymouth	3.0	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.4
University College Plymouth	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of Portsmouth	3.3	3.3	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.3
Queen Mary, University of London	12.7	13.5	14.2	18.0	22.0	24.2	24.8
University of Reading	16.4	17.2	17.3	20.7	22.0	22.6	22.3
Roehampton University	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
Rose Bruford College	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Royal Academy of Music	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Royal Agricultural College	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Royal College of Art	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.9
Royal College of Music	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Royal Holloway, University of London	9.5	10.5	11.0	13.1	13.9	14.3	14.5

£ million

Institution name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Royal Northern College of Music	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Royal Veterinary College	2.4	2.8	3.0	3.8	4.1	4.6	4.9
St. George's Hospital Medical School	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.5	5.2	7.3	7.5
St. Mary's University College	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
University of Salford	5.7	5.7	5.8	7.3	7.7	7.9	7.6
University of Sheffield	30.2	34.4	35.8	40.2	42.6	43.8	44.6
Sheffield Hallam University	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.8
University of Southampton	31.0	34.3	36.0	41.7	44.4	45.6	46.7
Southampton Solent University	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Staffordshire University	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
University of Sunderland	1.4	6.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9
University of Surrey	14.2	14.3	15.2	16.5	17.5	18.0	18.0
University of Sussex	11.8	13.7	14.1	16.4	17.4	17.9	17.3
University of Teesside	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Thames Valley University	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University College London	66.8	77.3	81.5	93.0	97.6	101.3	104.1
University of Warwick	20.0	21.8	22.6	27.7	29.8	30.6	30.5
University of West of England, Bristol	2.1	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.8
University of Westminster	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0
University of Winchester	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
University of Wolverhampton	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
University of Worcester	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Writtle College	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
University of York	14.5	16.7	17.6	21.0	22.8	23.4	24.0
York St. John University	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
England total	940.1	1,019.4	1,060.5	1,227.5	1,318.6	1,390.6	1,436.0

Overseas Students

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) which 50 *(a)* universities and *(b)* further education colleges had the highest number of non-European Union students registered for courses in the last year for which figures are available; and how many such students were registered at each; [227519]

(2) how many students have been enrolled in full-time higher education courses at English universities and colleges in each year since 1990; how many of those originated in *(a)* EU member states other than the UK and *(b)* non-EU countries; and how many students from EU countries other than the UK studied at university in England in each year since 1997; [227520]

(3) which universities had over 5 per cent. of their student intake from non-EU nationals in each of the last five years; [227521]

(4) how many non-EU national students there are at each university in England. [227522]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Scholarships: Overseas Students

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent on each publicly funded international student scholarship programme for which he is responsible in each of the last five years; and how much is to be spent on each programme in 2008-09. [229008]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills funds scholarships for PhD students from the developing world through the Dorothy Hodgkin awards. DIUS (previously DTI Office of Science and Technology) has directly contributed £525,000 since 2005, including £131,250 in 2008/09. This contributes towards the total of £23.565 million that research councils have funded through the Dorothy Hodgkins scheme from 2004-08. DIUS has also contributed £400,000 per year towards the FCO's Chevening scholarships for the past five years, including this year. DIUS has earmarked, but not yet spent:

£800,000 for Commonwealth Scholarships for the academic years 2009/10 and 2010/11

£13.4 million over the current spending period for Newton Fellowships.

Students: Fees and Charges

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the annual costs that would accrue to the public purse from the abolition of fees for students in higher education in the UK. [224539]

Mr. Lammy: Total income from tuition fees was worth £5.4 billion to UK higher education institutions in 2006/07 the latest year for which data is available. It would cost the taxpayer at least that amount each year if tuition fees were abolished for all students in higher education in the UK and the Government decided to compensate institutions for the loss of income on a pound for pound basis. The Government believe that in view of the personal financial returns to higher education, those who benefit from participating in higher education should also make a contribution to its costs.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the annual cost to his Department was of the funding of *(a)* post graduate certificate in education courses and *(b)* undergraduate B.Ed courses in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [228881]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families pays grant in aid to the Training and Development Agency for Schools to help fund undergraduate and postgraduate teacher training courses in England. Total TDA funding to initial teacher training providers for trainee teachers registered on postgraduate and undergraduate courses for the last three years is as follows:

£

Academic year	*Postgraduate*	*Undergraduate*
2005/06	130,026,255	97,870,244
2006/07	133,730,293	105,393,779
2007/08	135,741,362	108,507,369

Notes:

1. Postgraduate courses include School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT).

2. Undergraduate courses include all degrees leading to Qualified Teacher Status, including BEd, BA with QTS and BSc with QTS.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of students on an initial teacher training course were eligible for a bursary in the most recent period for which figures are available. [229020]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Training bursaries are payable to eligible trainees on mainstream postgraduate courses of initial teacher training. In 2006/07 there were 23,920 first-year postgraduates on mainstream courses eligible for the bursary. That figure represented 61 per cent. of the total teachers in training in that year.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Trade Unions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his policy that academies should recognise trades unions; and if he will make a statement. [229466]

Jim Knight: Academy trusts are subject to the same employment law requirements as any other employer.

In the 2007 academies prospectus we stated that:

> "As a good employer we would expect Academies to recognise staff Associations."

Alderman Blaxhill School: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1104W, on the Alderman Blaxhill school, Colchester, if he will list the full itinerary for which the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners undertook on his visit to Colchester in September 2008. [231261]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My predecessor, Lord Adonis, held a short introductory meeting with the leader of Essex county council, followed by visits to Alderman Blaxill school, Thomas, Lord Audley school and Sir Charles Lucas school when he visited Colchester.

In line with the usual protocols, Lord Adonis' office informed the hon. Member for Colchester in a letter of 27 August of the date of the visit and the planned itinerary.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who instigated the visit on 12 September to Alderman Blaxill school, Colchester, by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners. [226733]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners, visited Alderman Blaxill School, Colchester, on 12 September at the invitation of Lord Hanningfield. Lord Hanningfield e-mailed to invite Lord Adonis on 13 June 2008.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1104W, on the Alderman Blaxill school, Colchester, on what date the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners visited Colchester; and what the *(a)* name and *(b)* position was of the member of his private office who was present during the visit. [231260]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners was accompanied by his diary manager on his visit to Alderman Blaxill School, Colchester on 12 September. It is not the Department's practice to make public any personal information relating to junior officials.

Children: Asylum

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who were suspected to be victims of human trafficking came to the UK in each year for which records are available. [228708]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office does not collate aggregate data on the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children coming to the UK who are suspected of being victims of human trafficking.

Children: Prisoners

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with children's charities on *(a)* the needs of children with parents in prison and *(b)* the additional support that they require. [229976]

Beverley Hughes: We have an ongoing dialogue with children's charities and voluntary organisations through the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) grant programme, the Parenting Fund and the Parent Know How Programme to provide services to parents and families, including help with their parenting skills. This includes structured parenting programmes, support groups, counselling and helplines.

We recently announced the injection of £16 million pounds for parenting services across the UK as part of the third round of the Parenting Fund run by the Family and Parenting Institute. Charities and voluntary organisations from 23 areas of the country will be able to apply for funding for projects that help strengthen family relationships in families where parental behaviours compromise family well being, including work to support families of offenders to improve life chances of their children.

In January, we published the joint priority review of the children of offenders with the Ministry of Justice. This includes commitment to explore ways in which the National Offender Management Service and children's service can assess and meet a child's needs when a parent goes to prison; and to set clear and achievable expectations of offender managers and local partners to improve support for these families.

We have also highlighted the families of offenders as being a priority group to local authorities in their work to decide where to target the significantly increased funding (over £120 million for 2008-11) we have made available for targeted initiatives to support families with high levels of need, with a particular focus on parenting skills. These include family intervention projects, the parenting early intervention programme, family pathfinders respect parenting practitioners and funding for at least one new parenting expert in every local authority to provide evidence-based parenting programmes for parents of children who are considered to be at risk or those parents with problems that are known to put their children at risk. Children of offenders (including those in prison) have been highlighted as one of the groups to be targeted by the Family Pathfinders and for the new parenting experts and the youth crime action plan.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what IT projects his Department is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the completion date of each is. [229156]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold a current comprehensive list of IT expenditure at every level of detail sponsored by the Department or its delivery partners. This could be calculated only at disproportionate cost. However, some information is readily available about the eight most significant IT projects sponsored by the Department and its delivery partners. The information that follows represents the total cost of each project and not all of this will relate to hardware and software. Figures quoted are based on current plans and are subject to actual outturns. Some DCSF expenditure also includes elements relating to services provided to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills following machinery of government changes that are not readily identifiable.

Projects	*£ million*
ContactPoint	224
e-Common Assessment Framework	44
National Strategies Contract	5.5
Schools Recruitment – CPP Shared Services	2.285
Implementing e-Channels	34.4
Identity Assurance	11-15
Corporate Services Transformation programme	26
GCA-Minerva	18

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire) on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 604.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228764]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is not available in the form requested and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years of age were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228761]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My Department was formed as part of the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007. Figures are available from 28 June 2007 to 30 September 2008. The information is set out as follows:

	Number/percentage
Number over 55	11
Number over 60	0
Percentage of new recruits (over 55)	3
Percentage of new recruits (over 60)	0

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash-equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229558]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members whose details are shown in the remuneration report in annual resource accounts. A copy of the Children, Schools and Families resource accounts for financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library or accessed electronically using the following link

www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications.

The Department has no agencies.

Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many places will be available for each of the diplomas for 14-to 19-year-olds in 2009-10. [225847]

Jim Knight: We do not know the number of places that will be available for diplomas in the school year 2009-10, and will not do so until young people chose their options next year.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of students resident in each local authority area achieved a score of 1,000 or more under the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's tariff points scheme in level three assessments taken at the end of the second year of post-16 study in 2006-07. [227846]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information readily available relates to students on-roll in institutions in each local authority rather than by their local authority of residence. This information is given in the table that follows. Figures relating to local authority of residence can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Other summary residency-based A-level figures (but not for the detail required) for 2006/07 are available via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000808/index.shtml

Number and percentage of pupils achieving a QCA average point score of 1,000 or more by 2006/2007 by local authority

		Number of pupils achieving an QCA APS of 1,000 or more	*Percentage of pupils achieving an QCA APS of 1,000 or more*	*Number of pupils*
201	City of London	72	37.3	193
202	Camden	110	5.9	1,865
203	Greenwich	51	2.8	1,820
204	Hackney	7	0.7	1,021
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	217	9.1	2,376
206	Islington	16	0.9	1,688
207	Kensington and Chelsea	147	8.4	1,752
208	Lambeth	19	2.3	844
209	Lewisham	78	3.6	2,137
210	Southwark	288	21.9	1,315
211	Tower Hamlets	34	2.0	1,730
212	Wandsworth	85	3.0	2,865
213	Westminster	243	7.8	3,104
301	Barking and Dagenham	46	3.2	1,454
302	Barnet	438	7.5	5,862
303	Bexley	176	7.9	2,226
304	Brent	83	3.2	2,628
305	Bromley	349	7.7	4,528
306	Croydon	310	7.0	4,442
307	Ealing	147	6.7	2,202
308	Enfield	133	4.9	2,726
309	Haringey	83	4.7	1,781
310	Harrow	297	9.0	3,302
311	Havering	353	10.7	3,290
312	Hillingdon	172	5.0	3,415
313	Hounslow	94	3.1	3,071
314	Kingston upon Thames	283	9.2	3,065
315	Merton	145	11.2	1,298
316	Newham	33	1.2	2,745
317	Redbridge	215	5.6	3,864
318	Richmond upon Thames	367	10.7	3,424
319	Sutton	461	14.0	3,300
320	Waltham Forest	129	3.9	3,313
330	Birmingham	1,161	11.2	10,341
331	Coventry	226	6.9	3,278
332	Dudley	500	10.0	5,006
333	Sandwell	13	1.0	1,292
334	Solihull	156	5.2	3,022
335	Walsall	169	7.2	2,342
336	Wolverhampton	163	5.7	2,857
340	Knowsley	1	0.2	588
341	Liverpool	278	6.0	4,606
342	St. Helens	280	9.9	2,829
343	Sefton	489	11.1	4,397
344	Wirral	472	11.7	4,019
350	Bolton	262	10.3	2,538
351	Bury	427	12.3	3,471
352	Manchester	495	8.6	5,726
353	Oldham	211	7.0	3,001
354	Rochdale	58	4.6	1,253
355	Salford	88	3.7	2,393
356	Stockport	438	9.1	4,806
357	Tameside	131	6.4	2,032
358	Trafford	419	18.1	2,310
359	Wigan	545	14.5	3,758
370	Barnsley	62	4.3	1,451
371	Doncaster	197	7.3	2,688
372	Rotherham	285	9.0	3,176
373	Sheffield	399	9.6	4,150
380	Bradford	341	6.0	5,657
381	Calderdale	120	6.9	1,749
382	Kirklees	815	15.4	5,291
383	Leeds	742	9.0	8,206
384	Wakefield	362	10.1	3,588
390	Gateshead	69	4.7	1,465
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	232	5.4	4,291
392	North Tyneside	120	6.5	1,860
393	South Tyneside	11	1.2	887
394	Sunderland	261	10.4	2,502
800	Bath and North East Somerset	168	6.6	2,539
801	City of Bristol	316	7.3	4,330
802	North Somerset	154	7.3	2,101
803	South Gloucestershire	181	6.2	2,904
805	Hartlepool	51	4.9	1,033
806	Middlesbrough	119	7.0	1,689
807	Redcar and Cleveland	133	8.1	1,642
808	Stockton on Tees	157	7.9	1,998

Number and percentage of pupils achieving a QCA average point score of 1,000 or more by 2006/2007 by local authority

		Number of pupils achieving an QCA APS of 1,000 or more	*Percentage of pupils achieving an QCA APS of 1,000 or more*	*Number of pupils*
810	City of Kingston-upon-Hull	255	8.7	2,940
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	171	6.2	2,770
812	North East Lincolnshire	134	6.9	1,929
813	North Lincolnshire	253	10.9	2,311
815	North Yorkshire	909	11.3	8,033
816	York	348	12.8	2,717
820	Bedfordshire	383	7.2	5,312
821	Luton	51	2.6	1,937
825	Buckinghamshire	836	12.0	6,941
826	Milton Keynes	145	7.6	1,899
830	Derbyshire	570	8.9	6,373
831	City of Derby	124	5.4	2,286
835	Dorset	358	8.5	4,207
836	Poole	229	9.0	2,554
837	Bournemouth	125	15.9	786
840	Durham	236	5.4	4,382
841	Darlington	281	12.9	2,181
845	East Sussex	197	3.3	5,973
846	Brighton and Hove	341	8.9	3,848
850	Hampshire	2,552	12.2	20,883
851	Portsmouth	55	6.6	836
852	Southampton	87	3.9	2,234
855	Leicestershire	698	8.2	8,527
856	Leicester City	240	5.4	4,458
857	Rutland	86	21.8	394
860	Staffordshire	626	7.6	8,[illegible]26
861	Stoke-on-Trent	115	5.4	2,148
865	Wiltshire	421	8.1	5,175
866	Swindon	72	3.8	1,871
867	Bracknell Forest	69	5.6	1,229
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	261	12.1	2,151
869	West Berkshire	255	10.2	2,498
870	Reading	146	11.6	1,263
871	Slough	156	9.0	1,735
872	Wokingham	102	5.6	1,823
873	Cambridgeshire	948	13.8	6,860
874	Peterborough	159	7.5	2,122
875	Cheshire	904	10.7	8,452
876	Halton	53	4.7	1,117
877	Warrington	168	7.0	2,386
878	Devon	496	6.5	7,596
879	Plymouth	225	9.4	2,403
880	Torbay	190	12.0	1,580
881	Essex	1,493	10.4	14,347
882	Southend	321	12.8	2,506
883	Thurrock	39	2.1	1,870
884	Herefordshire	373	16.8	2,226
885	Worcestershire	613	8.2	7,462
886	Kent	1,708	10.0	16,999
887	Medway	304	8.9	3,430
888	Lancashire	1,467	13.0	11,270
889	Blackburn	105	4.5	2,308
890	Blackpool	194	8.8	2,216
891	Nottinghamshire	469	6.4	7,314
892	Nottingham City	518	12.3	4,205
893	Shropshire	394	10.1	3,883
894	Telford and Wrekin	201	11.3	1,784
908	Cornwall	325	5.8	5,609
909	Cumbria	604	11.3	5,359
916	Gloucestershire	890	10.2	8,728
919	Hertfordshire	1,240	7.3	17,004
921	Isle of Wight	35	2.7	1,316
925	Lincolnshire	749	10.5	7,107
926	Norfolk	586	7.8	7,500
928	Northamptonshire	525	6.5	8,050
929	Northumberland	230	6.8	3,398
931	Oxfordshire	793	9.0	8,828
933	Somerset	530	7.3	7,223
935	Suffolk	649	10.0	6,488
936	Surrey	1,468	8.4	17,403
937	Warwickshire	689	8.7	7,889
938	West Sussex	592	6.0	9,799
	England	51,092	8.6	596,575

Note:

Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) entered for level 3 qualifications in all institutions.

Further Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* evaluated and *(c)* undertaken on the influence of sixth forms in schools on rates of post-16 participation in education by other pupils attending the schools. [228683]

Jim Knight: The Department commissioned and published research by the university of Southampton in 2004 on the influence of the school in the decision to participate in post-16 education. The research found that schools with sixth forms promoted post-16 academic routes more actively and narrowly than schools without sixth forms and that careers advice in schools with sixth forms was felt by pupils to be less impartial and favouring of an academic tradition and sixth form provision than advice provided in schools without sixth forms.

The Department has also conducted internal analyses using sources such as the youth cohort study and matched administrative data. These analyses show that young people are more likely to stay on in full-time education at age 16 if they are in a school with a sixth form, but this participation gap becomes small if part-time education and training are included. It is likely that these gaps are largely accounted for by differences in the characteristics (such as prior attainment) of pupils attending schools with and without sixth forms. The latest participation rate figures are given in the answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 389W, what proportion of pupils aged 16 to 18 years in *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* school sixth forms were from highly deprived backgrounds in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [228684]

Jim Knight: Information is available using matched administrative data and eligibility for free school meals at age 15 as a proxy for income deprivation. Of those 16-to 18-year-olds in further education colleges and maintained school sixth forms in 2006/07, 13 per cent. and 8 per cent. respectively were eligible for and claiming free school meals at age 15. Information for 2007/08 is not yet available.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of students achieved five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics in each local education authority area in the north-east region in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; what percentage of such students were in receipt of free school meals in each year; and what percentage of students not in receipt of free school meals achieved that standard in each year. [228520]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The percentage of students at the end of key stage 4 in each local education authority achieving five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics, broken down by free school meal eligibility, for 2007, can be found in table 49 of the "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07" statistical first release (SFR) accessible at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

For 2006, similar information can be found in table 73 of the "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2005/06 (Provisional)" SFR accessible at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/index.shtml

and for 2005, in table 91 of the "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2005" SFR accessible at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/index.shtml

These figures are for maintained schools only, including academies and city technology colleges and excluding independent schools, independent special schools and non-maintained special schools.

Gifted Children

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of schools have a gifted and talented register in *(a)* the primary sector and *(b)* the secondary sector. [228796]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In total, 94 per cent. of secondary schools and 76 per cent. of primary schools completed the question requesting confirmation of their gifted and talented pupils in the January 2008 school census. We do not collect information about the form in which schools keep records of their gifted and talented pupils.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228557]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has an equality and diversity delivery plan that has several action points to help with the retention and development of disabled staff, including updating our current guidance on working with disabled staff and the provision of a stress management policy. In addition, the Department uses the guaranteed interview scheme for registered disabled staff when recruiting externally and for the internal job filling.

The Department makes reasonable adjustments for people with mental health related disabilities and has an occupational health service that advises managers on the steps they can take to help people with mental health related illnesses return to and stay in work. A confidential welfare service is also available for staff who may wish to discuss any health related issues.

The Department monitors the equality impact of its policies through the people survey and the information it holds on employees, but small numbers can often make this difficult for specific disabilities.

Executive non-departmental public bodies operate within the same legislation as the Department but information is not held centrally by the Department on specific actions that they take and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pre-school Education: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what qualifications his Department *(a)* approves and *(b)* recommends for people working in child-care. [229703]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 23 October 2008]*: We are committed to creating a highly skilled work force to deliver truly world class early years services, including having a graduate early years professional (EYP) to lead practice. We aim to have an EYP in every children's centre by 2010 and in every full day care setting by 2015. All children's centres offering early years provision must also have a minimum 0.5 of a qualified teacher involved in planning and delivering the service before designation. Centres should aim to increase this to be a full time post within 18 months.

In addition to this, we have put in place qualification requirements for staff delivering the early years foundation stage (EYFS): at least one member of staff must hold a full and relevant level 3 (as defined by the Children's Workforce Development Council—CWDC) and at least half of all other staff must hold a full and relevant level 2 (as defined by CWDC). A new list of full and relevant qualifications will shortly be available on the CWDC website:

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/

Pupils

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students *(a)* were eligible for free school meals, *(b)* had a statement of special educational needs and *(c)* were on School Action Plus in (i) grammar schools and (ii) maintained secondary schools other than grammar schools in each local education authority in the latest year for which figures are available. [227956]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the use of support federations to turn around failing schools; and if he will make a statement. [229465]

Jim Knight: A range of policies for tackling underperforming schools is available to local authorities and the Department. Policies such as improving management, forming federations and other collaborative arrangements, adding additional governors, taking back delegated budgets or replacing a governing body with an interim executive board are effective tools to help raise standards and sustain improvements in underperforming schools.

Federation is a governance structure which provides a firm and flexible basis for extensive school to school partnership. It is one of the powerful structural models that may be adopted by National Challenge schools to secure long-term school improvement. The single governing body of a hard federation provides a framework of sustained support, replication of practice and opportunity to share expertise and resources. Support federations are an effective way of schools working in partnership through formal shared governance structures to raise standards and drive significant improvement.

Schools: Demolition

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school buildings built before 1900 were demolished in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [229442]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on school buildings built before 1900 that have been demolished in local authority areas over the last five years. It does, however, give guidance to local authorities wishing to retain historic school buildings in school use through its publication, 'Transforming Schools: An Inspirational Guide to Remodelling Secondary Schools', and through its collaboration with English Heritage on their position statement, 'The Future of Historic School Buildings'. In both the Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital programmes, we are happy to support local plans that retain and restore historic school buildings.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether schools classified as National Challenge schools on the basis of 2007 GCSE results will continue to be classified as National Challenge schools if their 2008 GCSE results were over the National Challenge 2008 threshold; and if he will make a statement. [228792]

Jim Knight: Our ambition is that by 2011 no school will have fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five or more GCSE A*-C grade passes including English and mathematics. The National Challenge will provide help and resources for all schools that are currently below this benchmark. Support through the National Challenge programme will also be available to schools achieving results above 30 per cent., which need it to sustain results above the benchmark and continue on a positive trajectory.

We have also been clear from the outset that many National Challenge schools are improving fast, have excellent leadership and high aspirations, and are not only on track to reach the benchmark but also ready to go far beyond it. This was demonstrated by the record GSCE results this summer. Many schools reached, and sometimes far exceeded, the 30 per cent. benchmark and I offer congratulations to all head teachers, staff and pupils in schools whose results have improved.

Secondary Education: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what surveys his Department has conducted to estimate the proportion of the school student population in Peterborough which wishes to stay on in full-time education beyond GCSEs; and what the findings were. [229451]

Jim Knight: There are a number of national surveys conducted by the Department that have asked young people about their intentions after age 16, such as the longitudinal study of young people in England, the youth cohort study and the education maintenance allowance pilots. However, these all have sample sizes designed to give accurate estimates at a national level and would not be able to provide reliable estimates for local authorities such as Peterborough.

Ofsted have run a school-based survey called Tellus for school children in Peterborough and in 2007 which asked year 6, 8 and 10 pupils what they hope to do when they leave school. The results of this are given in the following table:

Table 6c: What do you hope to do when you leave school? (Tick one box only)

		Percentage
	Peterborough	National
Get a job at 16	20	16
Study and get a job at 18	20	17
Study and go to university	43	50
Something else	7	7
Don't know	10	10

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have been entered for each available diploma, broken down by sex. [226481]

Jim Knight: In summer 2009 we will have information about the proportions of pupils entered for diplomas, broken down by gender for those pupils sitting examinations in 2009.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have been entered for diploma qualifications, broken down by local authority. [226484]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State made a statement in the House of Commons on 13 October 2008 about the number of young people who have embarked on a diploma course. A breakdown by local authority is included as follows.

Local authority	*Number of young people starting a diploma*
Barking and Dagenham	77
Barnsley	79
Birmingham	218
Blackburn with Darwen	6
Bolton	113
Bradford	77
Brighton and Hove	37
Bromley	188
Buckinghamshire	46
Bury	46
Calderdale	108
Cambridgeshire	67
Cheshire	169
Cornwall	165
Coventry	105
Croydon	[1]—
Cumbria	118
Derby	27
Derbyshire	[1]—
Dorset	65
Dudley	146
Durham	10
Ealing	62
East Sussex	342
Gateshead	49
Gloucestershire	20
Hackney	141
Halton	25
Hammersmith and Fulham	66
Hampshire	166
Haringey	26
Harrow	6
Hartlepool	30
Hertfordshire	574
Hillingdon	16
Hounslow	51
Hull (Kingston Upon)	83
Islington	89
Kent	155
Kirklees	71
Knowsley	190
Lambeth (joint Southwark)	207
Lancashire	100
Leeds	122
Leicestershire	119
Lewisham	29
Lincolnshire	471
Liverpool	245
Luton	23
Manchester	[1]—
Medway	319
Middlesbrough	125
Milton Keynes	44
Newcastle Upon Tyne	282
Newham	569
Norfolk	231
North East Lincolnshire	18
North Somerset	132
North Tyneside	112
North Yorkshire	20
Northamptonshire	116
Nottingham City	241
Nottinghamshire	131
Oldham	75
Oxfordshire	143
Plymouth City	160
Reading	314
Rochdale	92
Rotherham	60
Rutland	49
Salford	160
Sefton	22
Sheffield	173
Shropshire	18
Solihull	62
Somerset	76
South Gloucestershire	419
Southend-on-Sea	36
Southwark	49
St. Helens	17
Staffordshire	109
Stoke on Trent	[1]—
Suffolk	40
Sunderland	145
Surrey	161
Swindon	198
Tameside	42
Torbay	115
Tower Hamlets	66
Trafford	140
Wakefield	5
Walsall	52
Waltham Forest	35
Wandsworth	17
Warrington	54
West Sussex	46
Wiltshire	83
Wolverhampton	301
Worcestershire	126
York City	205

[1] Awaiting return.

Specialised Diplomas: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils studying for diplomas are eligible for free school meals. [226482]

Jim Knight: In summer 2009 we will have information about the proportions of pupils entered for diplomas, broken down by those eligible for free school meals for those pupils sitting examinations in 2009.

Specialised Diplomas: Rural Areas

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to help rural schools collaborate in offering the diploma courses. [230054]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have set out our assessments in "Delivering 14-19 Reforms in Rural Areas", which we published on 30 June 2008. This report shows that rural and semi-rural areas face a particular set of challenges. We are committed to supporting these areas to overcome the challenges they face and know that many rural areas are already deploying a range of innovative solutions to ensure that young people get access to 14-19 provision.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the difference in salary levels between further education lecturers and schoolteachers; and if he will make a statement. [229299]

Jim Knight: Following the machinery of government changes in 2007, responsibility for further education colleges falls to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. I have not, therefore, received representations since that time about the relative levels of salaries payable to school teachers and further education lecturers.

However, the Government are not the employer of FE staff and DIUS is not involved in pay issues. Following enactment of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, FE employers became independent institutions and pay in the FE sector is a matter for the staff and colleges concerned. Pay settlements for FE colleges and sixth form colleges are agreed in consultation with staff and their unions, without Government involvement in either national or local machinery.

Teachers: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid *(a)* by (i) employees and (ii) employers into and *(b)* to those receiving pensions payments from the teachers' pension scheme in each of the last five years. [229432]

Jim Knight: The values of contributions received to each of the last five years are:

		£000
	Employer contributions	*Employee contributions*
2002-03	1,447,375	1,078,462
2003-04	2,506,296	1,163,695
2004-05	2,578,001	1,189,792
2005-06	2,670,087	1,229,680
2006-07	2,819,704	1,320,010

The values of benefits paid (including lump sums) in each of the last five years are:

	Pensions paid (£000)
2002-03	3,972,147
2003-04	4,190,227
2004-05	4,501,543
2005-06	4,898,595
2006-07	5,294,682

The figures are taken from the published teachers' pension scheme resource accounts and vary from those provided in my response to the hon. Member on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 84W, which were provided on a cash basis.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the annual change in cost to the public purse of the 2006 changes to the teachers' pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [229491]

Jim Knight: Savings in employer contributions for the teachers' pensions scheme in 2007-08 have been estimated at around £280 million a year, and will grow in subsequent years in proportion to the growth in the salary bill.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since its inception. [229107]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was created on 28 June 2007 and since then nobody has been seconded to a trade union or to the Trades Union Congress.

In common with other Departments and agencies, my Department does provide agreed time off and facilities for trade union representatives to take part in trade union duties, activities and training.

Young People: Unemployment

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people aged 16 to 24 years old not in education, employment or training there were in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* region. [228730]

Beverley Hughes: The data presented in the following table (i) are taken from the labour force survey (LFS). The table shows, for each Government office region, the estimated number of people aged 16 to 24 not in employment, education or training (NEET) in the fourth quarter (October to December) of each year since 1997. Estimates are not available by constituency or by local authority.

Table (i): Number of 16 to 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training in quarter 4 of each year by region, 1997 to 2007

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*Eastern*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
1997	43,000	100,000	72,000	47,000	83,000	59,000	123,000	91,000	47,000	665,000
1998	54,000	119,000	83,000	51,000	82,000	53,000	117,000	75,000	49,000	683,000
1999	49,000	87,000	73,000	62,000	75,000	50,000	112,000	72,000	45,000	626,000
2000	50,000	95,000	75,000	56,000	82,000	54,000	95,000	74,000	48,000	629,000
2001	46,000	110,000	76,000	51,000	81,000	59,000	114,000	85,000	43,000	664,000
2002	50,000	100,000	73,000	56,000	79,000	69,000	108,000	76,000	49,000	659,000
2003	46,000	105,000	76,000	51,000	81,000	50,000	122,000	99,000	37,000	667,000
2004	58,000	113,000	81,000	68,000	83,000	61,000	139,000	82,000	60,000	744,000
2005	61,000	114,000	107,000	70,000	93,000	77,000	143,000	110,000	63,000	837,000
2006	45,000	120,000	95,000	65,000	96,000	77,000	148,000	93,000	68,000	808,000
2007	49,000	120,000	82,000	70,000	93,000	74,000	123,000	116,000	56,000	782,000

Source:
Labour Force Survey.

The total number of 16 to 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training has risen since 1997, but this reflects an increase in the overall population. The proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds NEET remains unchanged (table (ii)).

Table (ii): Percentage of 16 to 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training in quarter 4 of each year by region, 1997 to 2007

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*Eastern*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
1997	16	14	13	11	15	11	15	11	10	13
1998	20	17	16	12	15	10	14	9	10	13
1999	18	12	14	14	14	10	13	9	10	12
2000	18	13	14	13	15	10	11	9	10	12
2001	16	15	14	11	14	11	13	10	9	13
2002	17	13	13	12	14	13	13	9	10	12
2003	15	13	13	11	14	9	14	12	7	12
2004	19	14	13	14	14	11	16	9	11	13
2005	19	14	17	14	15	13	17	13	12	15
2006	14	14	14	12	15	13	17	11	12	14
2007	15	14	12	13	15	12	14	13	10	13

Source:
Labour Force Survey.

It is important to note that as with all survey estimates, these estimates from the LFS are subject to sampling error. The figures should therefore be treated with caution.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 29 October 2008

SCOTLAND

Barnett Formula

8. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the operation of the Barnett formula; and if he will make a statement. [229811]

Ann McKechin: I have had recent discussions with the First Minister on a variety of matters. This Government believe that the Barnett formula has delivered stable and transparent settlements for Scotland under successive Administrations for almost 30 years.

Defence Procurement

9. **Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on defence procurement in Scotland. [229812]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of matters.

Following a substantial inquiry earlier this year, the Scottish Affairs Committee found the defence industry to be a vital part of the Scottish economy, generating nearly £2.31 billion in sales and, together with the MOD, supporting almost 50,000 jobs. Sustained UK Government investment in Scotland has played a central and significant part in this success and I will work hard to ensure that Scotland's interests continue to be heard at the highest level.

Financial Services Sector

10. **Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on the future of the financial services sector in Scotland. [229813]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK Government are securing the future of the Scottish financial services sector in Scotland through the current interventions in the market it is making to deliver stability.

Regional Airports

11. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the future of Scotland's regional airports. [229814]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend and I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues. I met the managing director of BAA Glasgow earlier this month to discuss a range of issues. Both my right hon. Friend and I have also been in contact with BA concerning their cabin crew based in Scotland.

Banking Sector

12. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the banking industry in Scotland. [229815]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend. The Scottish banking system is now well placed to combat these difficult times after the significant intervention by this Government to stabilise the market.

Economic Situation

13. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for the Scottish economy. [229816]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK Government have taken decisive action to support both the banking sector in Scotland and to boost demand and confidence in the Scottish economy more widely.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has held with ministerial colleagues on the condition of the economy in Scotland. [229808]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with my ministerial colleagues. The Scottish economy is performing well in the face of difficult economic conditions, and will benefit from the actions of the UK Government to boost demand and restore confidence.

National Minimum Wage

14. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people in Scotland had their wages increased as a result of the recent rise in the national minimum wage. [229817]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It is estimated that 90,000 Scottish workers have benefited from the rise in the national minimum wage introduced on 1 October.

Devolution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what issues relating to the devolution settlement he has considered since his appointment. [229982]

Ann McKechin: Following our appointments, the Secretary of State and I have made it clear that we will work with colleagues in Government and the devolved Administration to ensure that the settlement continues to deliver results for Scotland.

Consideration of a wide range of matters relating to the devolution settlement is integral to the work of the Scotland Office and its Ministers. We work to ensure that the devolution settlement continues to deliver for the people of Scotland and maintains Scotland's position within the United Kingdom.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within his Department; and what use has been made of that information. [228553]

Ann McKechin: Under the disability equality duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Departments and public sector bodies listed in the associated regulations are required to publish and implement disability equality schemes. These are plans setting out how they will carry out the disability equality duty, monitor, and report on progress. In particular this includes their arrangements for gathering information on the effect of their policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of their disabled employees, including those with mental health conditions, and making use of that information.

The Scotland Office is covered by the scheme introduced by the Ministry of Justice which involves impact assessments, action plans and information gathering; the scheme and associated action plan is available at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/equality-schemes-2008.htm

The public sector bodies sponsored by the Office that are subject to these requirements are responsible for publishing and implementing their own disability equality schemes.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Meetings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the cost was to the public purse of holding the meeting of the Cabinet in Birmingham on 8 September 2008; [229112]

(2) how much was spent on police protection for the Cabinet meeting in Birmingham held on 8 September 2008; [229113]

(3) how much was spent on *(a)* lunch and *(b)* refreshments for those attending the Cabinet meeting held in Birmingham on 8 September 2008. [229114]

The Prime Minister: The visit of the Cabinet to Birmingham was preceded by several ministerial visits across the region; a public engagement event with approximately 250 people was followed by a formal Cabinet meeting and an economic event including business leaders.

The cost of the public engagement event, the Cabinet meeting and the economic events in Birmingham was £61,920, excluding VAT. There are no separate figures for the Cabinet event, and the costs for all the events have been taken together. The figure includes the cost of hiring the venue, catering, associated security and search equipment, delegate management and rail travel for both staff and Ministers. In addition, Departments and agencies will have incurred costs in terms of staff time and other support. The cost of any security provided by the police is a matter for the relevant police force.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Leader of the House how much her Office spent on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by her Office to provide such courses in each year. [230488]

Chris Bryant: Staff of the Leader of the House's Office are encouraged to attend training courses as part of their development. For the financial year of 2007-08, the following external training courses were provided to members of staff.

Organisation	£
Embracing Enterprise Ltd.	2,937.50
Dod's Parliamentary Communication	3,525
National School of Government	3,350

Staff also have the opportunity to attend internal training courses which are provided to members of staff by the Cabinet Office free of charge.

Details of any payments in 2008-09 will only be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Due to the machinery of government changes, the Leader of the House of Commons office now forms part of the Cabinet Office. Information for external training courses prior to 2007 can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Leader of the House what personal training courses at public expense she has undertaken since her appointment. [230952]

Ms Harman: None.

Plain English

Mr. Scott: To ask the Leader of the House how much has been spent by her Office on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230603]

Chris Bryant: None.

Philip Davies: To ask the Leader of the House how many documents produced by her office were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for crystal mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231122]

Chris Bryant: None.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228777]

Paul Goggins: The cost of overnight accommodation, including subsistence, for civil servants within the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive non-departmental public bodies, for the financial year 2007-08 was £407,855.

The cost of overnight accommodation could be separated from this figure only at disproportionate cost.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Local Government: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, if he will place in the Library a full copy of the research that the Electoral Commission commissioned into the socio-demographic breakdown of the turnout in the 2008 local elections in England. [230726]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has placed in the Library a copy of the report of public opinion research commissioned from ICM to support the Commission's review of the 2008 local elections in England and Wales.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Products: Imports

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* value and *(b)* volume of imports of (i) wheat, (ii) barley, (iii) fresh vegetables, (iv) potatoes, (v) fresh fruit, (vi) beef and veal, (vii) pork, (viii) bacon and ham, (ix) mutton and lamb, (x) poultry meat, (xi) eggs and (xii) liquid milk in each year since 1997, broken down by country of dispatch. [229493]

Jane Kennedy: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the House Library.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how his Department's budget has changed following the movement of responsibilities to the Department of Energy and Climate Change. [230627]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The budget for the new Department is currently being decided between it and the contributory Departments: the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The budget will be announced to Parliament in the spring supplementary estimate.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which IT projects sponsored by his Department have been abandoned prior to completion in each of the last five years; and how much was spent on each project. [230905]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1516-17W.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff from his Department will be redeployed to the Department of Energy and Climate Change. [230626]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Approximately 400 staff will be transferred from DEFRA to the Department of Energy and Climate Change. The detail is still being worked on but once this has been agreed, the information on number of posts transferred will be a matter of public record.

Departmental Telephone Services

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what agencies or units for which his Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers that charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency has derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225638]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has made use of 0870 telephone numbers, which generated income of £1,023.61 in 2005-06, £792.06 in 2006-07 and £3,764.02 in 2007-08. All of these amounts have been paid into the consolidated fund extra receipts and so were not used to defray DEFRA's costs. The Department also makes use of 0845 numbers which are charged at standard national rates.

The Animal Health Agency uses two lines which are 0844 numbers and charge at 4.2 pence per minute. Animal Health makes no income from these lines.

None of the Department's other agencies makes use of any lines that charge above the national rate.

The pesticides safety directorate confirmed that they did not use lines which charge above the national rate when they were an agency of DEFRA, prior to their move to the Health and Safety Executive in April 2008.

Floods: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with water companies on the method of charging voluntary organisations for their surface water discharges; and if he will make a statement. [230996]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* It is the responsibility of The Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat), the industry's independent economic regulator, to approve charging schemes proposed by water companies.

Ministers are currently reviewing recent experience on the impact of the change from charging based on rateable value to charging based on surface area.

Food: Prices

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect on *(a)* crop yields and *(b)* food prices of proposed revisions to directive 91/414/EEC on plant protection products, broken down by crop. [230771]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In May 2008 the pesticides safety directorate (PSD) published an assessment of the agronomic impact of the proposed revisions to Directive 91/414/EEC. A copy of this assessment has been placed in the Library of the House and can also be found on the PSD website.

The assessment carried out by PSD has recently been developed into an economic assessment by Sean Rickard, senior lecturer in business economics at Cranfield university school of management and is available on the Cranfield university website.

Pesticides

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the advisory committee on pesticides was first informed by the manufacturers that the insecticides known as neonicotinoids have been reported in other countries to have a significant adverse impact on honey bees. [229906]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The German authorities suspended the authorisations of 'all insecticidal seed treatments for maize and oilseed rape' on 16 May 2008. Eight products were involved which included six manufactured and distributed by one manufacturer. The pesticides safety directorate was contacted by that manufacturer on 19 May 2008, and on the same day, PSD contacted the German authorities for confirmation of the measures taken and for more detailed information. Contact between the advisory committee on pesticides and pesticide manufacturers takes place through the committee's secretariat.

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date members of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides were first informed that the group of insecticides known as neonicotinoids *(a)* were the subject of a court case in Germany being brought by beekeepers alleging that these chemicals were responsible for large-scale death tolls among their honey bees and *(b)* that the Italian Government had suspended use of the sprays because of their adverse effects on honey bees. [229908]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The advisory committee on pesticides' environment panel was informed of the incident in Germany, which led to the death of honey bees and restrictions on the use of neonicotinoids in Italy, at their meeting of 21 October 2008.

The pesticides safety directorate is currently awaiting further information from the Italian authorities as to the basis for their action.

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will suspend immediately the use of neonicotinoid insecticides in order to protect honey bees. [229909]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have no plans to suspend approval for the use of neonicotinoid insecticides.

The risk assessment process undertaken prior to the granting of the approval to market and use these pesticides established that the risks associated with the use of these products fell within acceptable limits.

The UK Government meet regularly with representatives of the European Commission and member states (including those which have recently imposed restrictions on the use of these chemicals), to discuss issues relating to pesticide approvals. The question of bee mortality and these pesticides was discussed at a recent meeting and at the 10th International symposium of the international commission for plant-bee relationships on hazards of pesticides to bees on 8-10 October 2008. At present there is no evidence that the approvals need to be amended on the crops and at the rates used in the UK, but we will continue to keep the situation under review.

In addition, the Government's wildlife incident investigation scheme reviewed a number of bee deaths reported to it this summer. No neonicotinoid pesticides were detected during analysis of the bee bodies.

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what special steps he has asked *(a)* the pesticides safety directorate (PSD) and *(b)* the advisory committee on pesticides (ACP) to take to investigate the reported high levels of deaths of British honey bees over the last two years; when he made these requests; and what advice he has received from the (i) PSD and (ii) ACP to date. [229910]

Huw Irranca-Davies: At this point in time there is no evidence to suggest that reported losses of UK honeybee colonies are related to pesticide applications (see response to PQ 5369 07/08). Consequently the Secretary of State has not asked either PSD or the ACP to investigate these reports.

Reports of colony losses are being investigated as a high priority, and there may be a number of factors involved. Additional funds of £120,000 (£90,000 from DEFRA and £30,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government) have been allocated to the National Bee Unit to expand the investigations they started last year into significant bee losses and to meet the demand for increased inspections of bee imports.

Single Payment Scheme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of administering payments under the single payment scheme in each of the last three years, broken down by claims of less than *(a)* £1, *(b)* £1-£100, *(c)* £100-£1,000, *(d)* £1,000-£10,000, *(e)* £10,000-£50,000, *(f)* £50,000-£100,000, *(g)* £100,000-£250,000, *(h)* £250,000-£500,000, *(i)* £500,000-£1,000,000, *(j)* £1,000,000-£2,000,000 and *(k)* over £2,000,000. [230868]

Jane Kennedy: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) does not collect information on the cost of administering payments under the single payment scheme in England broken down by monetary value. This information cannot be extracted without incurring disproportionate costs.

RPA is the accredited common agricultural policy paying agency within England. Information for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should be sought from the relevant devolved administrations.

Wildlife: Pets

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to reduce illegal possession of exotic wildlife. [224316]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The possession of exotic wildlife is not governed by specific legislation but is affected by the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 where appropriate and the European regulations on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora which implement the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna (CITES) in EU member states.

The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 places a responsibility on local authorities to ensure that species covered by the Act are kept in appropriate and safe conditions. It is essentially a public safety measure rather than legislation aimed at illegal wildlife possession.

The CITES regulations are aimed at the trade of wildlife and thus control the import of exotic wildlife into and out of the EU. The CITES management authority, and the UK Border Agency work closely with the national wildlife crime unit to ensure that the enforcement and compliance aspects of the control in trade come up to the highest possible standards.

DEFRA, with other regulatory authorities and non-government organisations, are developing a communications strategy aimed at raising awareness of CITES controls among the public, businesses and other relevant organisations. Animal Health representatives regularly attend trade shows and produce literature advising on the CITES controls and with the aim of reducing the illegal imports of endangered species. The UK Border Agency is responsible for enforcing CITES import and export controls at the UK frontier. Profiling and targeting activities are also carried out by them in order to combat illegal imports.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Complaints

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information is available to recruits to the armed services on the function of the service complaints commissioner and how to make complaints in confidence. [230791]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information about the role of the SCC is communicated through a number of means. Joint service publication 831 Service Complaints (Redress of Individual Grievance) sets out the policy and process for making and handling service complaints, and includes a chapter on the role of the SCC. This is available on the defence intranet and www.mod.uk to all serving personnel. A booklet covering the main points of the complaints process, with a leaflet explaining the role of the SCC has been issued for distribution to all Service establishments. A team profile is under development on the defence intranet to make information relating to service complaints available electronically. This profile will also provide a link to the SCC's website. The SCC has visited establishments of all three services, and continues to do so regularly, to meet serving personnel and the chain of command to raise awareness of her post.

The three services have different approaches to providing information to recruits about how to make complaints in confidence:

Navy

Within phase 1 training Royal Navy and Royal Marine rating and other ranks recruits at each establishment are briefed on both equality and diversity related complaints and Service complaints generally.

Army

All recruits and trainees receive briefings that inform them of the function of the complaints procedures and the various channels which are available to raise a complaint. These include: the chain of command, Women's Royal Voluntary Service, the padre, the unit welfare officer, a medical officer and the confidential support line.

This is currently in the process of being reinforced by the inclusion of detail covering the role of the SCC in the "Army Recruiting and Training Division Code of Conduct and Behaviour for Recruits," leaflet and the recruiting group publication "A Guide for Guardians and Parents". With the commissioner's agreement, a paragraph outlining her role will be included in letters sent to parents.

RAF

There are two training establishments for the RAF, Cranwell and Halton.

At RAF Cranwell, the officer and aircrew cadet training unit is responsible for conducting the initial training of all officers and non-commissioned aircrew. Since January 2008, all cadets at RAF Cranwell have been briefed during their first week of training on the role and contact details of the SCC.

At RAF Halton, comprehensive measures are in place to ensure that recruits are aware of the complaints procedures. These include two 45 minute briefings on the RAF's equality and diversity policy, and the distribution of a booklet entitled "Combating Bullying and Harassment in the Royal Air Force" to all recruits. The issue is also addressed in the station commander's supervisory care directive, which is mandatory reading by all instructors at RAF Halton and is available to all recruits.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1600-1W, on armed forces: health services, what the basis for charges for the use of *(a)* (i) internet, (ii) telephone and (iii) television access at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak and *(b)* the telephone at Headley court rehabilitation centre was. [220596]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The basis for charges for internet, telephone and television access are as follows:

Selly Oak Hospital

	£
Television	[1]1.20
	[2]4.50
	[3]9.50
Internet	[4]60 pence
Telephone	[5]10 pence

[1] For two hours
[2] For one day
[3] For three days
[4] For 20 minutes up to a maximum of £3.60 per day
[5] Per minute to all UK land lines

Charges for use of the payphones at Headley court are set at 40 pence per minute to cover costs

Patients at Selly Oak are provided with pay cards by the military liaison officers to use the facilities concerned. Funding for the cards is provided from patient welfare funds.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* telephones, *(b)* televisions and *(c)* computers with internet access are supplied for patient use at (i) the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak and (ii) Headley court rehabilitation centre. [220598]

Mr. Kevan Jones: At the Selly Oak, Queen Elizabeth and Heartlands hospitals there is access to television, telephone and internet facilities at every bed. The Alexandra wing (the military low dependency wing at Selly Oak hospital) has three televisions, one telephone and five internet terminals. In addition, the military liaison officers have access to a further three telephones and 15 internet enabled laptops if required.

At Headley court there are nine televisions, 10 internet terminals and three payphones available for use by patients.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost per patient was of the provision of *(a)* internet, *(b)* television and *(c)* telephone facilities at (i) the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Selly Oak and (ii) Headley court rehabilitation centre in the latest period for which figures are available. [222491]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format requested.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of service family accommodation *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas there are in each standard for condition grade; and what percentage of the total each represents. [216241]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Out of a total worldwide stock of some 71,000 service family accommodation (SFA) properties, 54,493 have been assessed for their standard for condition (SfC)—a measure of the physical condition of the property against 102 attributes. Of those properties assessed by SfC, the following are currently at each standard:

	UK SFA	*Percentage*	*Overseas SFA*	*Percentage*
S1fC	28,813	61	2,487	36
S2fC	16,830	35	840	12
S3fC	1,773	4	1,966	28
S4fC	83	<1	1,701	24

This Department accepts that some SFA properties are not of a standard that our service personnel and their families deserve and steps are being taken to address this. Since 2001, in Great Britain nearly 13,000 SFA have been upgraded to S1fC, with some 600 of the worse condition properties to be upgraded this year and a further 800 in each year thereafter. In Great Britain, no service family will be required to live in S4fC accommodation by the end of this financial year.

Regarding overseas SFA, 650 properties will be upgraded to S1fC this year on the overseas estate, of which 500 will be upgraded under the hired accommodation review programme in Germany which also looks to replace flats with houses. In Cyprus, work is under way to upgrade 269 of the worse condition properties.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what priority is accorded to post and parcels in shipping goods for service members to theatres of operation. [230163]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence recognises the immense importance for our deployed personnel and their families of maintaining a fast and reliable mail service to and from operational theatres. The only circumstance in which mail is not moved as the highest priority is when there is an overriding requirement to support ongoing operations, for example the movement of critical combat supplies, or the provision of essential water and rations.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the conclusions were of the evaluation in 2007 of the use and effectiveness of procedures for seeking confirmation of self-declared medical and social histories to determine the suitability of an applicant for employment in the army; and what progress has been made in extending these procedures throughout HM armed services. [230901]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 2004, the Army has sought to obtain a recruit's medical records on arrival at the phase 1 training establishment, together with a completed medical questionnaire during the recruiting process, from the recruit's GP. No formal evaluation of this policy was conducted in 2007. However the Army considers this to be a highly effective way of helping to identify particularly vulnerable recruits during the recruiting process and at the very start of basic training. As a result the Army has been able to ensure that recruits have the appropriate support throughout their time in the Army training system. The procedures were extended to Territorial Army selection in April 2007.

Practice in the other two services varies.

In May 2008, the Navy introduced confirmation of self-declared medical and social histories to determine the suitability of all applicants for employment.

The RAF operates a different system and does not routinely seek to obtain medical information from applicants' GPs, other than for those applying for commissioned officer (or non-commissioned aircrew) service.

Armed Forces: Safety

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are in place in the armed forces to consider and act upon recommendations following Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigations; what HSE reports were received in 2007; and what steps were taken as a result of each. [230829]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The procedures for consideration and acting upon recommendations following HSE investigations are contained within Ministry of Defence policy documentation joint service publication 815—Defence Environment and Safety Management, Annex L and JSP 375—The MOD health and safety handbook, volume 2 leaflet 14.

Information about HSE reports received in 2007 and the actions taken, is not held centrally and officials are collating the details. Once this work has been completed I will write to my hon. Friend.

AWE Sites: Floods

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the Atomic Weapons Establishment report on the effects of extreme weather events and flooding at its Burghfield and Aldermaston nuclear warhead development and production sites in July 2007; how much the remedial action taken as a result of the report has cost to date; and what assessment he has made of the sustainability of *(a)* AWE Aldermaston and *(b)* AWE Burghfield. [230048]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Following the extremely heavy rainfall on 20 July 2007, immediate action was taken by AWE plc., with the agreement of MOD, to prevent any reoccurrence of the flooding. These measures proved effective when further extreme weather conditions were subsequently experienced across the country.

AWE prepared a comprehensive review, learn and improve (RLI) assessment report following the flooding to ensure the continued safety of both sites. The MOD endorsed this report, and its recommendations, many of which were under way or implemented prior to its publication. The nuclear installations inspectorate has remained content that nuclear site licence requirements have been met both during and subsequent to the periods of exceptional rainfall.

The cost of remediation, to the extent that it is not covered by commercial insurance, is still the subject of commercial discussions between the MOD and AWE plc.

The disruption caused by the flooding had no adverse effect on the UK deterrent programme, and both Aldermaston and Burghfield sites maintained the capability safely to support the deterrent. Knowledge gained from the events following the flooding has been taken into account in taking forward the programme of investment under way at AWE announced in July 2005, which will ensure that this capability is sustained into the future. Specifically, flood prevention measures continue to be included in designs for replacement facilities and the potential risk from flooding forms a key element of planning applications to the local planning authority.

Beryllium

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the possible health effects of beryllium on humans. [222851]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD has undertaken three studies on the health effects of beryllium between 1979 and 1990 as part of an ongoing commitment to the health and safety of its employees. These studies involved 338 individual tests for an allergy to beryllium. Sixteen positive test results were found from workers at the Atomic Weapons Establishments at Aldermaston and Cardiff. The significance of positive tests remains uncertain and no firm conclusions can be drawn.

MOD continues to evaluate and contribute to the understanding of the possible health effects of beryllium through AWE's contribution to national and international industry working groups on the subject.

Departmental Art Works

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on maintaining its works of art in each of the last three years. [227872]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Excluding staff costs, the MOD art collection team spent the following sums:

Financial year	*£*
2005-06	52,992
2006-07	59,895
2007	56,254

The majority of these costs relate to conservation, re-framing and installation in order to maintain the MOD art collection for the future.

The MOD art collection consists of works of fine art in a range of media; sculpture, furniture, clocks, photographs, manuscripts, prints and ships' figureheads. Everything in the collection is owned by the taxpayer, as opposed to the various regimental mess and ward room collections, which are owned by mess members.

Most of the works in the MOD art collection archive have been presented, donated or bequeathed to the Admiralty or to the War Office over the last 300 years. Works representing the activities and history of the RAF are less well represented in the archive. Items from the archive are displayed all over the defence estate and in residences of senior officials. As a general rule, taxpayers' money is not used to acquire works of art; but to protect, conserve and display those works for which the MOD is responsible. The very best works of art are on long-term loan to various public art galleries and museums.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223056]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The most serious of disciplinary offences in the MOD are identified as those amounting to gross misconduct. Charges of gross misconduct are considered by deciding officers at senior civil service (or equivalent) level.

Although there is no official categorisation of such offences into an order of seriousness, the most serious gross misconduct offences in the last 12 months have included negligence causing injury to others, failure to declare criminal convictions and a number of thefts of MOD property and fraud. These cases resulted in dismissal. Procedures and policies are revised as appropriate in the light of such cases.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230210]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has a range of penalties that may be applied to those civil servants found to have committed disciplinary offences. Minor offences attract a formal warning, but the number of such warnings has not been recorded centrally. For more major offences, penalties include reprimand; loss of pay (for one, five or 10 days); downgrading with a ban on promotion for up to three years; or dismissal. Penalties may be accompanied by restitution if appropriate according to centrally available records, the number of such penalties has been as follows:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Reprimand	19	10	14
Loss of pay	55	14	17
Downgrading	1	0	3
Dismissal	26	17	27

Note:
It is possible that these figures do not give a fully complete view, as they were managed locally and not all may have been reported to the central conduct unit. Since October 2007, all cases have been centrally monitored and recorded by the People Pay and Pensions Agency.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British-built cars his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* operates. [230423]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence has a lease/hire agreement in place for the provision of the majority of non-operational cars (white fleet vehicles). It does not therefore own such vehicles under this arrangement. As at 20 October 2008 there were 7,177 cars leased under the contract for the UK, of these 3,730 were British built.

Some units may arrange for the ad hoc supply of a very small quantity of cars to be provided through local arrangements. These details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the small number of cars owned by Ministry of Defence for use on operations is being withheld as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Departmental Operating Costs

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual *(a)* staffing and *(b)* other office costs of the office of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Veterans is. [230167]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The staffing cost of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Veterans for the financial year 2007-08 was £395,297. In addition to the development and delivery of policy, the staff work load incorporates the processing of over 1,650 parliamentary questions and around 3,300 letters from MPs and peers each year. The cost includes a proportion of support staff costs shared between defence ministerial offices. Additional office costs separately identifiable for financial year 2007-08 were £33,368; this figure excludes shared building and office services.

Departmental Secondments

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials from his Department have been seconded to work for private companies in the last five years, broken down by *(a)* grade, *(b)* salary band and *(c)* company. [231396]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Centrally held records since 1 April this year show that the Department currently has no officials seconded to work for private companies. Secondments prior to 1 April 2008 were arranged locally by business partners and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 191W, on departmental sick leave, what management areas would need to be surveyed to determine the number of staff on gardening leave. [231167]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In order to ascertain the number of staff who are on gardening leave at a particular time, it would be necessary to survey the individual line managers of some 750 staff in the redeployment pool (who are given priority in consideration for new posts), spread across all areas of the Department, to find out whether they were currently unable, exceptionally, to provide such staff with work.

Ex-servicemen: Advisory Services

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ex-armed services personnel have received specialist advice at each of the six pilot schemes offering such advice in the community. [230969]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The health care of veterans is a matter for the national health service and the four UK health departments. Information has not yet been collected on how many ex-armed service personnel have received specialist advice at each of the pilots launched so far. Independent evaluation is an integral part of the project and one of the key aims will be to generate this information.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the start up dates were of the six pilot schemes for specialised advice to armed forces veterans. [230968]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The respective start up dates for the five community mental health pilots launched so far were as follows:

Location	*Date launched*
Staffordshire and Shropshire	November 2007
Camden and Islington	December 2007
Cardiff	February 2008
Bishop Auckland	May 2008
Plymouth	June 2008

It is hoped the pilot in Scotland will launch in the next few months.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the locations are of the six pilot schemes offering specialist advice to armed forces veterans. [230970]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The NHS sites participating in the community mental health pilot scheme for veterans are: Stafford, Camden and Islington, Cardiff, Bishop Auckland, Plymouth and Scotland. In addition, to assist those veterans not in the catchment areas of one of the pilots, we have expanded our medical assessment programme based at St. Thomas' hospital, London, to include assessment of veterans with mental health symptoms with operational service since 1982.

Mediterranean Region: Navy

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what roles Royal Navy vessels were performing in the Mediterranean during *(a)* July, *(b)* August and *(c)* September 2008. [231091]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy vessels on operations in the Mediterranean during July, August and September 2008 were engaged in maritime security and various duties associated with NATO tasking.

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230653]

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231116]

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230609]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Turkey: Navy

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Royal Navy vessels were stationed in or around the coast of Turkey during the month of August 2008. [231090]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No Royal Navy vessels were stationed in or around the coast of Turkey during the month of August 2008.

TRANSPORT

Access for All Scheme

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding he plans to allocate to the Access for All fund in each of the next three years. [228469]

Paul Clark: Access for All was launched by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Glasgow, South (Mr. Harris) in March 2006 and is a 10-year, £370-million programme of investment. The main part of the programme is delivered by Network Rail, which is targeted to spend £35 million per year. In addition, the Department for Transport will make available approximately £6 million per year for small schemes funding, through to 2015. The exact amount will depend on the applications we receive and on Network Rail's progress.

Cars: Exhaust Emissions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to minimise the negative effects on the environment of cars in development, with specific reference to measures to promote *(a)* fuel economy and *(b)* the use of hybrid drives. [229862]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have a wide range of policies to promote the development of more fuel efficient and lower carbon vehicles.

At a European level we are supporting the development of mandatory new car CO_2 standards which will require the fleet average of new cars to be reduced to 130g CO_2/km by 2012. We also support adopting a longer term target of 100g CO_2/km by 2020. These regulations will incentivise the development of all technologies capable of improving fuel economy and reducing CO_2 emissions—including hybrid drives.

In the UK we are investing more than £100 million in UK research, development and demonstration of a wide range of technologies for more fuel efficient and lower carbon cars, including supporting the development of more efficient engines, improved hybrid and electric vehicles and the use of new lighter materials.

Further detail on our policies in these areas can be found in the Department for Transport's annual report.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 417W, on departmental non-departmental public bodies, if he will provide the equivalent figures for each of his Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies. [231211]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The following table details the financial support that the Department for Transport has planned for its advisory non-departmental public bodies for the years 2008 to 2011.

Department for Transport planned financial support to its advisory NDPBs) for the financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11

£ million

Advisory NDPB	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Commission for Integrated Transport (CfIT)	1	1	1
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC)	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Cycling England	20	60	60

[1] None.

The Department also provides secretariat and administrative functions in support of its advisory NDPBs and meets certain other costs from its own budgets.

Departmental Parking

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff parking spaces are provided by his Department, broken down by location. [228101]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1064W.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1408-09W, on departmental post offices, how many items of mail were dealt with by *(a)* his Department's, *(b)* the Highways Agency's, *(c)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's and *(d)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's mail service in the last 12 months. [229192]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information is provided as follows.

	Number of items of mail
(a) Central Department[1]	124,968
(b) Highways Agency[2]	28,050
(c) Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency[3]	108,463,941
(d) Vehicle and Operator Services Agency[4]	[4]—

[1] Comprising London HQ and Rail Accident Investigation Branch. Data for Air Accidents Investigation Branch and Marine Accident Investigation Branch is not recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

[2] Relates to Woodlands (Bedford). Requested information is not recorded at other Highways Agency sites.

[3] Of the total 103,955,287 were prepared and presented in a way that gained mail discounts. A further 4,508,654 were despatched without any mail discounts.

[4] The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) do not record this information.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227483]

Mr. Hoon: Since 1 July 2007 the Department for Transport and its agencies have not commissioned a citizens' jury.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229187]

Mr. Hoon: The Department and its agencies have recruited 177 fast stream employees since inception in May 2002. The current average salaries of those still employed by the Department are split by pay band as follows:

Current pay grade	*Current average salary (£)*
PB4 and fast stream	27,942
PB6	46,373
PB7	58,935
SCS PB1	60,536
Average	34,781

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) agencies sponsored by his Department in each year since its creation. [228959]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport was formed in April 2002 and currently includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department, with a total staff of over 19,000.

For the central Department, the records for replacement staff passes are available from April 2005 as follows:

	Passes
2005	282
2006	435
2007	402
2008	141

These records do not distinguish between passes replaced due to loss or theft and those replaced for other reasons. Lost or stolen passes are estimated to account for approximately 45 per cent. of all replacement passes issued.

For the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the number of staff passes recorded as lost or stolen in each year since 2002 is as follows:

	Passes
2002	97
2003	89
2004	82
2005	94
2006	80
2007	82
2008	74

These records include staff passes for the DfT shared service centre, which became operational in April 2007. However, they do not distinguish between passes replaced due to loss and those replaced due to theft as cases are dealt with individually and not recorded in an aggregated form.

For the Highways Agency, records of replacement staff building passes are available from 2006 as follows:

	Passes
2006	25
2007	48
2008	48

These records do not distinguish between passes that were reported as lost and those that were reported as stolen.

For the Government Car and Despatch Agency, records of passes reported missing are available from 2005 as follows:

	Passes
2005	18
2006	24
2007	5
2008	7

These records do not distinguish between passes that were lost and those that were stolen.

The Vehicle Certification Agency have recorded that no staff passes were lost or stolen since 2002.

For the Driving Standards Agency, records of staff passes reported as lost or stolen are available from March 2008 and show 26 passes reported to date. These records do not distinguish between passes reported as lost and those reported as stolen.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, the Maritime Coastguard Agency and, prior to March 2008, the Driving Standards Agency do not centrally record the number of staff passes reported as lost or stolen as cases are dealt with individually and not recorded in an aggregated form. To collect this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of people driving illegally without a licence or insurance who are resident in *(a)* north-west Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the east of England and *(d)* England and Wales. [229292]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no figures available for those that drive without a valid driving licence on a regional basis or for uninsured driving. For national figures I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 282-83W, to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers).

Heathrow Airport

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from the business community about a third runway at Heathrow in the last two years. [227985]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers regularly meet and correspond with business representatives on a range of issues as part of the Department's continuing engagement with aviation stakeholders. Over the last two years, previous Secretaries of State have attended a number of events either hosted by, or where the business community has been represented, on the specific issue of Heathrow airport, although not limited to discussions about the third runway.

In addition, a wide range of business organisations submitted responses to the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation which closed in February this year. All of the almost 70,000 responses to the consultation are being analysed and will inform decisions on Heathrow which we expect to take by the end of the year.

Highways Agency: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total expenditure on consultants by the Highways Agency was in each year since its creation. [228127]

Paul Clark: Data is available only from 2002-03 and is shown in the following table:

	Consultancy expenditure (£ million)
2002-03	157.5
2003-04	169.7
2004-05	115.0
2005-06	2.4
2006-07	1.7
2007-08	2.0

The figures up to 2004-05 include all external consultants and technical advisers. The reduction in expenditure in 2005-06 was due to applying the revised Office of Government Commerce/Professional Services Forum definition of consultancy effective from 1 April 2005.

The revised OGC/Professional Services Forum definition of consultancy states:

> 'Consultancy falls under the wider category of Professional Services which comprises the following areas; General management and business, Legal, HR, IT,- Property, and Financial. Consultancy services cover one or more of advice, design and development, and implementation where the assignment is time limited or ad hoc, and is in addition to business as usual activity. Where these services are provided as part of steady state operations this should be recorded as staff substitution, even if a consultant is engaged.'

Expenditure in years 2002-03 to 2004-05 restated on the post 2005 basis is as follows:

	£ million
	Consultancy expenditure (restated)
2002-03	3.4
2003-04	4.7
2004-05	2.4
2005-06	2.4
2006-07	1.7
2007-08	2.0

Consultants and technical advisers provide specialist advice, knowledge and services essential to maintain our infrastructure and deliver transport improvements. They are engaged only where the agency does not normally retain full-time in-house expertise.

The Highways Agency contracts out 95 per cent. of its total spend. This is for the maintenance of our national road network, to ensure we have properly maintained, safe and serviceable roads.

M1: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the date when the roadworks in Nottinghamshire on the M1 motorway north of junction 25 will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [229893]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The widening works between M1 Junction 25 to Junction 28 are currently programmed to be completed in autumn 2010.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many foreign-registered motor vehicles which had been in the UK for more than six months were registered and licensed in the United Kingdom in the period *(a)* January to June 2008, *(b)* July to December 2007 and *(c)* January to June 2007. [229123]

Jim Fitzpatrick: When a foreign vehicle is re-registered and licensed in GB we do not capture how long the vehicle has been in the country. The total number of foreign registered vehicles re-registered and licensed by DVLA is:

	Number
January-June 2007	45,055
July-December 2007	46,483
January-June 2008	40,930

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents were caused by drivers without *(a)* valid insurance and *(b)* a valid driving licence in each year since 1997. [229948]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how many vehicles a statutory off road notification was made in the third quarter of *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2004. [229950]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following are the total statutory off road notifications (SORN) processed by the agency for July, August and September of the years stated. The totals consist of notifications made by both manual and electronic means.

	Number
2004	927,368
2005	1,007,738
2006	1,024,288
2007	1,031,549
2008	1,095,695

Motor Vehicles: Lighting

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the terms of Commission directive 2008/89/EC, on the provision of daytime running lights on motor vehicles, permit *(a)* retailers before sale and *(b)* purchasers after sale to modify vehicles to remove the facility; and if he will make a statement. [227957]

Jim Fitzpatrick: When the directive comes into force it will require all relevant new type approved vehicles to be fitted with dedicated low-wattage daytime running lights (DRL), which automatically activate when the engine is started, in order to be eligible for registration and sale. While retailers here will not be able to remove or disconnect DRL prior to registering the vehicle, there would currently be nothing thereafter to prevent the DRL being removed or disconnected, provided that this could be achieved without interfering with other lighting functions.

We are now considering how best to require that DRL fitted from the implementation dates are adequately maintained, so as to ensure that they continue to function correctly after registration.

Network Rail: Standards

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Office of the Rail Regulator has issued an improvement notice against Network Rail in the last month; and if he will make a statement. [231218]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The Office of Rail Regulation has not served any improvement notices on Network Rail in the last month.

Railway Stations: Disabled

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on plans to use Access for All funding to make access improvements at Leominster railway station; and if he will make a statement. [228220]

Paul Clark: Earlier this year, my predecessor announced the inclusion of Leominster station in the Access for All programme, for delivery between 2012 and 2015. Subject to a survey and feasibility study to identify the most appropriate solution during 2009, construction is programmed to begin in autumn 2010 with completion currently forecast during summer 2011.

Railway Stations: Gatwick

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what decision he has made on the redevelopment of Gatwick railway station. [227408]

Paul Clark: The Government have made no decision on the redevelopment of Gatwick airport railway station.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has made to Network Rail on upgrading Gatwick railway station before 2012. [227409]

Paul Clark: The Government have not made separate representations to Network Rail to upgrade Gatwick railway station.

The Government set out in July 2007 the improvements in capacity, reliability and safety they wished to be provided on the railway by 2014, and made significant investment available to pay for this. It is for the rail industry to determine the enhancements required to deliver this, subject to independent evaluation by the Office of Rail Regulation.

Railway Stations: Security

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many stations *(a)* were accredited to *(b)* unsuccessfully applied for accreditation to and *(c)* were lapsed from accreditation to the Secure Stations scheme in each year since its inception. [227968]

Paul Clark: Stations are awarded Secure Station status for a two-year period once they have met the required scheme accreditation standards on station design, station management, crime management and passenger perceptions. After this two-year period, stations can seek reaccreditation under the scheme. The vast majority of accredited stations seek and obtain re-accreditation.

The figures requested are provided in the following table. No details are held on those stations which have unsuccessfully applied for accreditation since the scheme's inception. However, since March 2005, stations which initially would not have gained full accreditation have been able to work towards accreditation. Six such stations have achieved full accreditation in this way.

The yearly accreditation figures represent stations that have received their accreditation or reaccreditation in that year. The figures do not include those stations in the second year of their accreditation period. For example, by totalling all new accreditations with those currently in the second year of their accreditation there are at present a total of 820 accredited stations in England, Scotland and Wales.

It should also be noted that the lapsed figures represent stations that that lapsed their accreditation (or re-accreditation) that year—however, they may have subsequently successfully gained re-accreditation thereafter.

	Accreditations including re-accreditations	*Lapsed stations*
1998	5	—
1999	23	—
2000	50	1
2001	60	2
2002	86	15
2003	68	13
2004	93	30
2005	124	35
2006	301	8
2007	278	5
2008	360	7

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many stations, which were working towards accreditation, subsequently failed to receive accreditation within 18 months, in each year since the introduction of the secure stations scheme. [227969]

Paul Clark: No stations which were working towards accreditation have failed to receive accreditation since the working towards accreditation category was introduced within the secure stations scheme in March 2005.

Railways: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints his Department received from members of the public on matters which fall within the remit of the approved penalty fares scheme in the last year for which figures are available. [227958]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not collate these statistics. However, there is a very small but regular flow of items of correspondence from passengers regarding National rail penalty fare schemes. These relate almost exclusively to unsuccessful appeals made by individuals to one of the two approved independent penalty fares appeals services.

Railways: Overcrowding

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will gather information on overcrowding levels on trains outside London and the south-east. [229954]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The Department for Transport will gather information on crowding levels during the morning peak in London and in other cities as part of its plans for monitoring delivery of the capacity metrics, announced in the 2007 high-level output specification.

Railways: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many scheduled train services were cancelled in the six months from 1 April 2008, broken down by train operating company. [228100]

Paul Clark: The latest available data covers England and Wales for the period up to 13 September. Between 1 April and 13 September 2008, the number of franchised passenger trains cancelled for their whole journey is given by train operating company in the following table.

Train operating company	*Number of cancellations*
Arriva Trains Wales	469
c2c	541
Chiltern	333
First Capital Connect	2,029
First Great Western	1,552
National Express East Coast	313
Merseyrail	672
Northern Rail	2,301
National Express East Anglia	2,776
Southeastern	2,190
Southern	2,126
Stagecoach South West Trains	1,997
TransPennine Express	437
Virgin Trains	775
CrossCountry	555
East Midlands Trains	698
London Overground	503
London Midland	2,976
Total	23,243

The total number of trains cancelled represents 0.9 per cent. of those scheduled to operate over the period in question. This is a reduction on the equivalent period in 2007 when 1.1 per cent. of scheduled services were cancelled.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many scheduled rail services were *(a)* delayed and *(b)* delayed more than 20 minutes in each of the first three quarters of 2008, broken down by (i) region and (ii) train operating company. [228103]

Paul Clark: Train performance data for the rail network is collected and processed by Network Rail. The hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

The information about the punctuality of individual train operating companies can be found on the Network Rail website, which is situated at:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/

Rescue Services: Hope Cove

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will arrange for the meeting between the hon. Member for Totnes, the Hope Cove lifeboat crew and the Minister responsible for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as requested by letter on 26 September; and what the reasons for the time taken in responding to that letter are. [231284]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The hon. Member's letter was received in the Department on 7 October and a reply, agreeing to a meeting, was sent on 24 October. This is within the Department's guidelines for the return of correspondence within 15 working days of receipt.

Roads: Accidents

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* other outcomes there were in road accidents in (i) Cornwall and (ii) England in the months of (A) June, (B) July and (C) August in the last five years. [231288]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of casualties resulting from reported personal injury road accidents for the months of June, July and August in Cornwall and England, for each of the last five years is given in the table:

Number of casualties

		Cornwall			*England*		
		June	*July*	*August*	*June*	*July*	*August*
2003	Killed	0	1	5	263	259	321
	Serious	21	26	29	2,557	2,518	2,527
	Slight	237	269	250	18,857	19,678	18,298
	Total	258	296	284	21,677	22,455	21,146
2004	Killed	8	5	1	231	207	241
	Serious	14	21	28	2,413	2,214	2,324
	Slight	212	248	261	18,205	17,876	18,356
	Total	234	274	290	20,849	20,297	20,921
2005	Killed	4	5	5	225	218	230
	Serious	24	24	23	2,223	2,285	2,244
	Slight	238	302	288	17,925	18,260	17,559
	Total	266	331	316	20,373	20,763	20,033
2006	Killed	6	5	6	232	223	240
	Serious	11	26	15	2,278	2,337	2,056
	Slight	207	255	273	16,578	17,843	16,505
	Total	224	286	294	19,088	20,403	18,801
2007	Killed	6	1	4	184	202	226
	Serious	21	26	26	2,084	2,186	2,122
	Slight	248	284	244	16,568	17,015	15,991
	Total	275	311	274	18,836	19,403	18,339

Roads: Lighting

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to encourage local authorities to dim street lights during the early hours of the morning. [229924]

Paul Clark: Street lighting service levels are a matter for individual highway authorities.

The effects of reducing lighting levels or turning lights off will vary from case to case. Any cost savings from reduced energy use would have to be balanced against potential adverse effects, for example on accidents or crime.

The UK Lighting Board in conjunction with the Institution of Lighting Engineers has published "Invest to Save" which provides guidance to local authorities considering adopting energy saving measures such as dimming or switching off lights. The document can be found at the Institution of Lighting Engineers' website

www.ile.org.uk.

Roads: Robin Cousins Centre

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with (i) Bristol city council and (ii) the Highways Agency in relation to highways access to the Robin Cousins centre. [227145]

Paul Clark: Officials within the Highways Agency have agreed terms for the sale of a permanent right of way to Bristol city council over a plot of land which is under the M5 viaduct at Shirehampton. The land is currently leased to the council and provides access to the Robin Cousins Sports centre. The council are purchasing the right of way to facilitate the sale of their sports centre.

The Highways Agency's valuer considers that the sports centre site has future development potential and to ensure that the agency obtains best value from its disposal the terms agreed with the council included a "clawback" provision which would trigger a payment to the Highways Agency if the sport centre site's value is increased by the granting of planning, permission for other development in the future.

The Highways Agency has been advised that inclusion of the clawback is hindering the purchasers of the sports centre from obtaining finance to purchase and operate the site. A meeting between the Highways Agency, Bristol city council, the prospective purchasers and representatives from the community to try to find a way to enable the sale of the sports centre to proceed took place in Shirehampton on 19 September.

Neither I nor officials from the Department have been involved in these discussions.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: ICT

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has in place to ensure that all criminal justice IT systems are effectively co-ordinated once they are fully operational. [228844]

Bridget Prentice: We have in place governance arrangements to manage the co-ordination of IT development across the criminal justice system through the business change board and its technical advisory groups. We have put in place an IT infrastructure that is complementary and we are developing this further, for example, through the introduction of joint video services, which enable criminal justice organisations to use one shared service providing video facilities.

Approved Premises

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the implications for public safety of the disclosure to the public of the identity and location of bail hostels; and if he will make a statement; [230075]

(2) what guidance he issues to local authorities on the disclosure to the public of the *(a)* identity and *(b)* location of bail hostels in their area; and what assessment he has made of the operation of such arrangements in practice. [230076]

Mr. Hanson: The bail accommodation and support service provided by ClearSprings Ltd under contract to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), to which I take these questions to refer, does not provide hostels. It provides people on bail and on home detention curfew with private, rented accommodation in small houses and flats with up to five people sharing. It is not our practice to disclose the addresses as these are the private homes of those provided with the accommodation. If an address does become public ClearSprings and NOMS will consider the risks to the occupants and to the public, consulting the police and other agencies as appropriate, and take such action as is considered appropriate. Local authorities are consulted by ClearSprings about the locations of properties. The Department has not issued guidance to local authorities about the disclosure of addresses. However, in its communication with local authorities in July 2008, ClearSprings asked that they respect the private nature of the houses and share address information on a 'need to know' basis only.

Coroners

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what powers coroners have to investigate deaths overseas. [230073]

Bridget Prentice: Since a decision of the Court of Appeal in 1983 coroners have had a duty to investigate a death overseas when the body is lying in their district and the death is reported to them, and the circumstances are such that they would have been required to investigate the death had it occurred in England or Wales.

Coroners have no special powers in this respect. When investigating overseas deaths they rely on co-operation from British embassies, high commissions or consulates and the relevant foreign administration.

Under planned coroners' legislation, coroners will retain this important duty. To assist coroners, the new chief coroner will have authority to secure information from overseas administrations.

Corruption

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his objectives are as Government anti-corruption champion over the next 12 months. [230838]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made on 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 44-45WS.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230202]

Mr. Wills: In the Ministry of Justice (former DCA), including HMCS, OPG, Tribunals Service, Wales Office, Scottish Office and the Ministry of Justice Headquarters, there are three levels of sanction in disciplinary cases. They are a first written warning, final written warning, and dismissal, although as an alternative to dismissal, a 36-month final written warning can be given.

In the public-sector prison service, the following sanctions are available: oral warning, written warning, final written warning, re-grading, removal from the field of promotion, financial restitution and dismissal from service. In cases where the misconduct is serious but does not warrant dismissal, a combination of penalties (for example a final written warning and removal from the field of promotion) can be awarded.

It is not possible to provide information as to how many times each sanction has been used during the last three years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Electoral Commission: Standards

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to *(a)* increase the effectiveness of the Electoral Commission as a regulator of electoral administration and *(b)* strengthen electoral regulation at local authority level. [225001]

Mr. Wills: The main statutory functions of the Electoral Commission in relation to electoral administration are to:

(i) Report on particular elections and referendums (section 5 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA 2000); and

(ii) Review electoral law and practice (section 5, PPERA 2000).

In addition, under section 10 of PPERA, the Electoral Commission may provide advice and assistance to electoral administrators.

Under the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Government strengthened the Electoral Commission's functions relating to electoral administration by increasing their reporting responsibilities. This included introducing provisions allowing the Electoral Commission to set performance standards for electoral administrators and to collect data on the financial aspects of electoral administration.

The Electoral Commission has developed these performance standards and the final set of standards was published on 21 July. A copy of these standards was laid before the House and the information obtained from local authorities as a consequence will give us a better understanding of the actions taken to increase registration.

The Government believe that the measures currently before the House, as part of the Political Parties and Elections Bill, to reform the Commission's governance in line with the recommendations in the 11th report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life will help to make the Commission a more effective regulator.

Freedom of Information: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what additional funding has been given to local authorities to assist them with processing the new burdens associated with the ongoing implementation of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [230553]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice currently has no plans to impose any new burdens on local authorities further to the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Lancaster Farms Young Offender Institution

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1379W, on the Lancaster Farms Young Offender Institution, how many inmates of HM Young Offender Institution Lancaster farms aged 18 years and one month are housed on the juvenile site. [229604]

Mr. Hanson: As at 28 October, there were six prisoners aged 18 years and one month or over housed on the juvenile site at Lancaster Farms.

Magistrates Courts: Kent

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in the courts service budget for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 on the operation of magistrates' courts in Kent. [228812]

Bridget Prentice: HMCS' top priority remains running our courts effectively and efficiently—this is our core business and where we will focus our energy and effort.

The senior management team in Kent, along with all other areas of HMCS, are currently looking at what steps can be taken to reduce overheads, remove duplication and increase efficiencies within its business processes. The overall objective is to prioritise front line services to court users.

Further analysis is required before the full business impact of the budgetary pressures can be assessed. HMCS regional, area and central directors under the leadership of Chris Mayer, the chief executive, are currently reviewing where and how the savings in 2008-09 can be made and the impact.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to ensure prisoners on sentences of imprisonment for public protection with mental health problems have access to offending behaviour programmes and other support to enable them to be released safely at the end of their tariff. [229940]

Mr. Hanson: All prisoners, including prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP), are assessed at the point of reception into prison. Those at risk of having a mental health problem, or vulnerable to suicide, are referred for a mental health assessment to the mental health in-reach team, which will help inform their care and treatment.

The National Offender Management Service has implemented changes to support the movement of all IPP prisoners through the custodial system in order to improve their access to courses and other work to address their offending.

There will however be some prisoners who are unable to participate, due to the intensive nature and focus of the programmes. If an offender is not immediately suitable, further work may be possible to prepare the individual. Individuals suffering from serious acute psychiatric morbidity, generally are not suitable for programmes.

Recent reports by the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health and HM chief inspector of prisons along with a report being prepared by Lord Bradley will inform our offender health strategy to be published early next year.

The Parole Board decides on the suitability for release of IPP prisoners, who will then be released on licence and subject to probation supervision.

Plain English

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230611]

Maria Eagle: There has been no spend in the Ministry of Justice on Plain English Campaign training courses since 2005. Prior to 2005, the Plain English Campaign was commissioned to support the creation of learning material for internal "Effective Writing" courses.

Prison Sentences

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure that people sentenced to imprisonment for public protection and their families are given correct information about the sentence. [229939]

Mr. Hanson: When the sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) became available for offences committed after 4 April 2005, information leaflets were provided to members of staff to enable them to advise sentenced offenders with correct information.

The management of IPPs was changed and enhanced by the introduction of offender management for IPP prisoners in January 2008. The offender management implementation manual places a clear responsibility on staff, offender managers in the community and offender supervisors in prisons, to ensure that IPP prisoners understand the sentence they have received. The implementation manual was accompanied by a further information leaflet for prisoners.

Where members of prisoners' families make inquiries with the specific consent of the prisoners themselves, they will receive accurate information about the sentence passed by the court.

Prisoners

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what strategies have been developed in order to identify and combat radicalisation within the UK prison population. [230840]

Mr. Hanson: The Government recognise the risk of radicalisation in prisons, just as there are risks in the wider community. In England and Wales, the National Offender Management Service is working closely with partner agencies to tackle all forms of extremism. Its programme of work includes gathering intelligence and establishing a clear national picture of the risk; training and awareness-raising for staff; support for Muslim chaplains in their work with those vulnerable to radicalisation; and work to research and develop appropriate interventions.

Re-offenders: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent offenders there were in east Lancashire in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [229911]

Maria Eagle: There are two statistical counts of persistent offenders used in the criminal justice system.

The first count is of persistent young offenders (PYOs). A PYO is a young person aged 10 to 17 who has been found guilty of recordable offences on three or more separate occasions, and within three years of the last of these is arrested by the police for a further recordable offence.

During the three-month period from April to June 2008, there were 7,389 criminal court cases across England and Wales in which PYOs were found guilty and sentenced. Of these, 292 were in Lancashire. Within east Lancashire, there were 59 and 48 cases respectively in the "eastern" and "Pennine" base control unit (BCU) police areas during the same period. Further information on PYOs can be found on the Ministry of Justice website.

The second is for prolific and other priority offenders (PPOs). The PPO programme tackles a small hard-core of offenders (not confined to any age group) who commit a disproportionate amount of crime, and cause disproportionate damage to their communities. It is a crime-reduction programme with a reducing re-offending focus.

Data from the PPO scheme performance framework indicated that at the end of March 2008 there were a total of 11,296 PPOs being managed in England and Wales, of whom 305 were in Lancashire. In the East Lancashire area (encompassing for this purpose the local authorities of Burnley, Hyndburn and Pendle) there were 99 offenders being managed as PPOs.

Repossession Orders

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* repossession notices were served and *(b)* ejection orders were granted by the courts in each year since 1985. [229419]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of notices of issue served for repossession and the number of suspended and outright ejection orders made in the county courts of England and Wales in each year since 1987, the earliest year for which these statistics are available.

For future reference, court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2007 can be viewed on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession. The figures for properties taken into possession are available from the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Possession actions in the county courts of England and Wales since 1987

	Mortgage[1]		Landlord (standard procedure)[2, 3]		Landlord (accelerated procedure)[2, 4]	
	Claims	Orders[5, 6]	Claims	Orders[5, 6]	Claims	Orders[5, 6]
1987	79,160	48,814	79,332	47,129	—	—
1988	72,655	47,769	103,756	62,914	—	—
1989	91,309	53,066	156,679	104,923	—	—
1990	145,350	103,508	131,017	112,780	—	—
1991	186,649	142,905	119,134	95,013	—	—
1992	142,162	126,881	117,671	96,958	—	—
1993	116,181	105,283	96,497	82,724	—	—
1994	87,958	77,681	83,081	63,561	—	—
1995	84,170	75,258	102,995	82,599	—	—
1996	79,858	71,203	111,807	87,849	—	—
1997	67,073	57,156	130,163	99,869	—	—
1998	84,836	66,055	155,128	112,236	—	—
1999	77,885	55,964	171,476	111,067	13,908	11,395
2000	70,430	50,918	176,123	114,321	16,660	13,254
2001	65,862	47,997	175,901	117,684	17,518	13,558
2002	63,203	41,759	177,377	118,598	18,096	13,557
2003	65,886	41,038	159,724	107,211	18,352	13,483
2004	77,250	46,683	154,186	102,630	20,429	15,156
2005	114,764	70,964	144,636	96,977	21,078	15,892
2006	131,219	90,680	135,048	89,631	23,011	17,322
2007	137,591	95,433	122,250	87,500	24,540	18,959

[1] Mortgage data includes all types of lenders.

[2] Landlord data includes all types of landlords.

[3] For 1987 to 1989, these standard procedure actions involved only social landlords.

[4] Accelerated procedure actions are not available prior to 1999. This procedure is used by landlords in relation to assured shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end. It enables orders to be made by the court solely on the basis of written evidence and without calling the parties to a hearing.

[5] Orders include suspended orders and orders made.

[6] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

Source:
Ministry of Justice.

Sentencing: Mentally Ill

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will provide guidance to sentencers on the appropriate use of sentences of imprisonment for public protection for offenders with mental health problems; and if he will ensure that such offenders who need treatment under the Mental Health Act 1983 are provided with hospital orders. [229941]

Maria Eagle: Sentencing is an independent function and judges and magistrates are responsible for making decisions in individual cases, which are governed by the statutory framework laid down by Parliament. Responsibility for issuing sentencing guidelines rests with the Sentencing Guidelines Council, not the Government. The council was set up under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and is an independent body chaired by the Lord Chief Justice. The Council's guide for sentencers and practitioners on dangerous offenders makes it clear that if the conditions for a hospital order are satisfied, the court may make such an order, even if the criteria for passing a sentence of imprisonment (or custody) for life, imprisonment (or detention) for public protection or an extended sentence are met.

In March 2008, the Department issued guidance to the courts on the sentencing options available for mentally disordered offenders following the changes made to the Mental Health Act 1983 by the Mental Health Act 2007. The 2007 Act reflects the continuation of the Government's policy that mentally disordered people who commit offences should receive specialist mental health treatment rather than being punished, wherever that can safely be achieved.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Labelling

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to progress with a further review of alcohol labelling before the review of the first stage is complete; [228600]

(2) what reviews there have been of the independent market survey conducted by the Campden and Chorleywood Food Research Association undertaken as part of his Department's review of alcohol labelling; and if he will make a statement; [228628]

(3) if he will discuss with industry partners in the voluntary alcohol labelling agreement whether *(a)* the pictorial representation of pregnant women and *(b)* the reproduction of the logo drinkaware.co.uk on labels of alcoholic products have the same effect on consumers as an advisory message in text form; and if he will make a statement; [228629]

(4) for what reason the responsible drinking messages disseminated by the drinks industry under the terms of the voluntary alcohol labelling agreement do not include the word "please"; what assessment he has made of the potential change in the effect of such messages of framing them in more courteous terms; and if he will make a statement. [228630]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department will commission independent second-stage monitoring of implementation of the voluntary agreement with the alcohol industry to include unit and health information on alcoholic drinks labels towards the end of 2008.

The Department commissioned a re-analysis by Campden and Chorleywood Food Research Association of its initial survey data in the light of new alcohol industry data on market share. We await industry confirmation that these data are not commercially confidential before we can confirm publicly the outcome of the re-analysis.

We wish to consider constructively possible inclusion of additional wording within sensible drinking messages as complying with the terms of the voluntary agreement with industry, even where these were not suggested as part of the original agreement. We will conclude this consideration shortly.

The voluntary agreement already makes clear that a pictogram in prescribed form is an acceptable alternative to wording about drinking before and during pregnancy.

Inclusion of a logo in place of part of the wording of the web address drinkaware.co.uk did not form part of the voluntary agreement. The Department is sceptical that this logo has wide consumer recognition, but is open to discussing any evidence to the contrary.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for implementing his decisions following the consultation on the alcohol strategy. [229730]

Dawn Primarolo: We will announce our decisions later in the year.

Alcoholic Drinks: Research

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedures will be followed to analyse responses to his Department's public consultation on the alcohol strategy; [228995]

(2) when his Department's analysis of responses to its public consultation on the alcohol strategy will be complete. [228996]

Dawn Primarolo: The public consultation on alcohol, "Safe. Sensible. Social - Consultation on further action", is being carried out under the Cabinet Office code of practice on consultations. This code also sets out criteria for how the analysis should be conducted.

A summary of the responses will be published within three months at the end of the consultation period, which means that the responses will be published by 14 January 2009.

Alcoholic Drinks: Retail Trade

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that the outcome of his Department's consultation on alcohol strategy *(a)* does not have a disproportionate effect on small retailers and *(b)* is consistent in its treatment of all sectors of the alcohol retail market. [228618]

Dawn Primarolo: Yes.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what benchmarking data his Department collects on the use of cancer treatments in comparable health economies; and what estimate his Department has made of the cost of bringing the UK's use of cancer treatments into line with those benchmarks. [231088]

Ann Keen: We do not routinely collect data on the use of cancer treatments in comparable health economies.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in charges for *(a)* residential and *(b)* non-residential care, broken down by local authority area, in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [226301]

Phil Hope: Data on client contributions made to Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. Data on the total amount of charges paid by service users in England for their care is not available centrally; information is not collected on fees paid for care where the service user receives no funding from the council, except in cases where they are resident in a council-run home or receive council-provided non-residential care. However, information is collected on fees paid by service users where they are part funded by the council and pay the remainder themselves. The available information on client contributions, by CASSR, for residential care and community based services between 2003-04 and 2007-08, has been placed in the Library.

Care Homes: Infectious Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* cases of healthcare-acquired infections and *(b)* deaths where the death certificate refers to a healthcare-acquired infection there were in care homes in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by (i) type of infection and (ii) type of care home. [228914]

Ann Keen: The information requested specifying the number of cases of healthcare associated infections in care homes is not available. The surveillance schemes for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections and *Clostridium difficile* infections collect data on where the patient was located when the specimen was taken. It is not possible to attribute reliably the origin of an infection to care homes or other settings from this information.

Death certificates record the place where a person dies, but not where any infections may have been acquired. Patients are often transferred between hospitals, nursing/care homes and other establishments and may acquire infections in a different location from their place of death.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes analyses of deaths in England and Wales where MRSA or *Clostridium difficile* is mentioned on the death certificate but these data do not indicate if the infection was acquired in hospital or elsewhere. The latest year for which figures are available is 2007; the data are published in Health Statistics Quarterly. This has already been placed in the Library.

The following tables, supplied by ONS, provide data on the proportion of all death certificates in NHS nursing homes, non-NHS nursing homes, private residential homes, and local authority residential homes in England and Wales where MRSA or *Clostridium difficile* were recorded, from 2005 to 2007, the latest year for which figures are available. Table 1 presents the proportion of certificates where MRSA or *Clostridium difficile* were mentioned and table 2 presents the proportion where MRSA or *Clostridium difficile* were recorded as the underlying cause of death.

Table 1: Number of death certificates where methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus[1] or Clostridium difficile[2] was mentioned, by place of death,[3] England and Wales, 2005-07[4]

			Deaths (persons)
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
NHS nursing home			
MRSA	17	15	12
C. difficile	24	50	69
Non-NHS nursing home			
MRSA	89	69	82
C. difficile	80	147	232
Private residential home			
MRSA	39	27	37
C. difficile	32	70	116
Local authority residential home			
MRSA	9	7	5
C. difficile	8	24	21

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004). Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 21, 15-22.

[2] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2001-2005. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 33, 71-75.

[3] Death certificates record the place where a person dies, but not where any infections may have been acquired.

[4] Deaths registered in each calendar year

Table 2: Number of death certificates where methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus[1] or Clostridium difficile[2] was recorded as the underlying cause of death, by place of death,[3] England and Wales, 2005-07[4]

			Deaths (persons)
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
NHS nursing home			
MRSA	5	8	2
C. difficile	14	26	36
Non-NHS nursing home			
MRSA	18	13	22
C. difficile	49	80	124
Private residential home			
MRSA	11	4	5
C. difficile	18	39	59
Local authority residential home			
MRSA	1	3	2
C. difficile	4	14	12

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004). Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 21, 15-22.

[2] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2001-2005. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 33, 71-75.

[3] Death certificates record the place where a person dies, but not where any infections may have been acquired.

[4] Deaths registered in each calendar year.

Cholesterol

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he gave to setting the quality and outcomes framework measure for cholesterol management in accordance with guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [230735]

Dawn Primarolo: The development of new indicators for the quality and outcomes framework are considered following an analysis of the evidence base which is carried out by an independent expert panel. Any subsequent changes are made following negotiations between NHS employers and the general practitioners committee of the British Medical Association.

Chronically Sick: Health Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to evaluate the *(a)* implementation and *(b)* outcomes of the national service framework for long-term medical conditions. [230736]

Ann Keen: The national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions was published in March 2005, and will be implemented over 10 years with flexibility for local health and social care communities to take account of local priorities and needs. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

The Department has provided service planners, commissioners and providers with guidance, expert advice and support to help them to deliver the NSF's quality requirements. However, in line with devolving responsibility to local organisations, we are moving to a new phase with much greater emphasis on local health and social care communities and the third sector taking responsibility for driving forward service change and improvement. This also recognises that the NSF is not a stand-alone priority but that it needs to be closely aligned and integrated into mainstream NHS and social services activity.

Contraceptives

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 16 to 24, *(b)* 25 to 34, *(c)* 35 to 45 and *(d)* 46 or more years were taken off combined levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol preparations and prescribed an alternative contraceptive in each of the last five years, broken down by alternative contraception prescribed. [231296]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested.

Dementia: Drugs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1348W, on dementia: drugs, if he will set out details of *(a)* the work programme and *(b)* the consultation and stakeholder engagement that is currently being undertaken. [231022]

Phil Hope: Priority is currently being given to work on finalising the National Dementia Strategy and Implementation Plan. This involves analysis of the findings from over 50 consultation events throughout the country, and over 500 written responses. Details of the work programme and stakeholder engagement for the review of the prescription of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia will be set out when the review is published in early 2009.

Dementia: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is being spent on Government commissioned and funded medical research on *(a)* Alzheimer's disease and *(b)* other forms of dementia in 2008-09. [231162]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not yet available.

In 2007-08, national health service support for degenerative neurological disorder research and National Institute for Health Research investment in dementia research amounted to some £23 million.

The Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust announced on 2 October 2008 their intention to make £30 million available to boost research into neurodegenerative diseases.

Dental Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made on the adequacy of the current level of access to NHS dentistry. [231227]

Ann Keen: The Department estimated in 2000 that there are some two million people in England who would like to access national health service dental services but are unable to do so.

Since the reforms to the dental contractual arrangements introduced in April 2006, primary care trusts (PCTs) are now responsible for assessing local need and developing services to meet this need. Increasing the number of patients seen within the NHS dental service is now a national priority in "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2008-09". We have supported this with an 11 per cent. uplift in overall dental allocations to PCTs worth £2,081 million (net of patient charge income). Copies of the operating framework have already been placed in the Library.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in relation to what requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on *(a)* abortion, *(b)* contraception, *(c)* reproductive health issues and *(d)* euthanasia refused by his Department appeals were made to the Information Commissioner in each year since 2005; how many such appeals were successful; if he will place in the Library copies of the information subsequently provided by his Department in each case; how much was spent by his Department opposing each appeal; what (i) consultants and (ii) law firms his Department employed in connection with each appeal; and if he will make a statement. [229509]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 2005, requesters have complained twice to the Information Commissioner about the Department's handling of applications for information about abortions under Freedom of Information legislation; one in 2005 and one in 2006. In the first case, the Information Commissioner decided that the Department should release information and a copy of the information was released to the applicant and has already been placed in the Library. In the second case, the Information Commissioner decided in July 2008 that the Department should release the information. After careful consideration and taking into account all the circumstances in both cases, the Department has lodged grounds for appeal with the Information Tribunal and is currently undertaking preparatory work. The Information Commissioner has not received similar complaints about the Department's refusal of requests on contraception, reproductive health issues and euthanasia.

Legal advice in both cases is provided to the Department by DH Legal Services, which is part of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) legal group. DH Legal Services provides a full range of legal services to the Department including arranging representation in court. No external consultants were employed in either case. No consultants or law firms were instructed in relation to these cases, although DH Legal Services sought advice from Counsel in relation to some matters. The costs associated with these two cases have amounted to £4,400.00 to date. The Department is not expecting the outstanding appeal from the 2006 case to be heard in the current calendar year and therefore the law firm representing the Department is yet to be identified.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value is of off-balance sheet private finance initiative projects that his Department proposes to enter on its balance sheet in the present financial year. [229970]

Mr. Bradshaw: A small number of national health service PFI schemes are regarded under current accounting standards as 'on balance sheet'. The asset/liability reported for these schemes for the latest year for which audited accounts are available, 2007-08, are in the following table. We expect these to continue to be reported as on balance sheet for the current financial year (2008-09).

On balance sheet PFIs 2007-08

	£000
NHS Body	
Devon PCT	2,238
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	51,299
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	6,357
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	30,832
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	112,875

Notes

All figures in £000

Source

Audited financial monitoring and accounts forms 2007-08

The Chancellor announced in the March 2008 budget that the accounts of central Government Departments would be produced under international financial reporting standards from financial year 2009-10. The Department is now undertaking a full assessment of moving to the new standards which includes examining the accounting and resource implications for the NHS's private finance initiative and other public-private partnership schemes currently accounted for as off balance sheet.

Doctors: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-UK registered doctors in further training in the NHS have been the subject of *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* criminal proceedings for the examination of a patient for which they had no authority. [231230]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information centrally, and is not directly involved in the disciplining of individual doctors. Decisions about whether a doctor should be disciplined are a matter for the General Medical Council.

Doctors: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors per 100,000 residents there were in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [230634]

Ann Keen: The average number of general practitioners per 100,000 population in *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997 is shown as follows, along with the number of hospital doctors per 100,000 population in England in each year since 1997.

The number of general practitioners for Chesterfield and hospital doctors per 100,000 population for Chesterfield and Derbyshire are not available.

Although primary care trusts (PCTs) serve a defined geographical area, hospital trusts are not defined in this way. Consequently, it is not possible to give a figure for the number of doctors per 100,000 population as it would only include those employed directly by the PCT and would be incomplete.

All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population for selected organisations in England, as at 1997 to 2007

Number (headcount)

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	England total	28,046	28,251	28,467	28,593	28,802	29,202	30,358	31,523	32,738	33,091	33,364
	Total specified organisations	503	513	508	512	518	545	573	595	607	611	622
QCH	North Derbyshire HA	191	195	190	193	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
QCJ	South Derbyshire HA	312	318	309	319	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5N7	Derby City PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	142	143	149	154	155	159	161
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	376	402	424	441	452	452	461
	Per 100,000 population											
	England total	57.6	57.9	58.1	58.1	58.2	58.8	60.9	62.9	64.9	65.2	65.3
	Total specified organisations	53.9	54.7	54.0	54.2	55.5	58.1	60.8	62.8	63.8	63.9	64.7
QCH	North Derbyshire HA	51.6	52.7	53.6	51.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
QCJ	South Derbyshire HA	55.4	56.0	54.2	55.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5N7	Derby City PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	61.5	61.6	64.0	65.8	65.9	67.3	67.7
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	53.5	56.9	59.7	61.8	63.1	62.7	63.7

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Medical and dental staff within specified organisations in England, 1997 to 2007

Number (headcount)

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	England	60,230	62,140	63,994	66,067	68,484	72,168	76,400	82,951	87,043	90,243	91,790

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Medical and dental staff within specified organisations in England, 1997 to 2007

Number (headcount)

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	191	202	209	205	229	233	247	260	265	281	306
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50	51	53	53	55	44
	Per 100,000 population											
	England[3]	123.8	127.3	130.5	134.2	136.5[2]	145.3	153.2	165.5	172.5	177.8	179.7

n/a = Not applicable

[1] In 2006 Amber Valley PCT, Chesterfield PCT, Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT, Erewash PCT, High Peak and Dales PCT and North Eastern Derbyshire PCT merged to form Derbyshire County PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these six predecessor organisations.

[2] Figure excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.

[3] Although PCTs serve a defined geographical area, hospital trusts are not defined in this way. Consequently it is not possible to give a figure for the number of doctors and nurses per 100,000 population as it would only include those employed directly by the PCT and would be incomplete.

Notes:

1. Data for Chesterfield are not available. Data are available for trusts and PCTs that provide or provided services within the Chesterfield constituency.
2. Data are not available for the specific geographical area of Derbyshire. The data used here are for both PCTs within Derbyshire for comparability as they were formed from the two former health authorities in Derbyshire.
3. Data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-07.

Sources:

1. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.
2. ONS Population figures 1997-2000 mid-year estimates based on 1991 census, 2001-07 mid year estimates based on 2001 census.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many responses *(a)* in total and *(b)* which deal with proposals for dispensing GPs he received to the pharmacy White Paper; [231160]

(2) what recent representations the British Medical Association has made to his Department on dispensing GPs, with particular reference to the proposals in the pharmacy White Paper. [231161]

Phil Hope: The pharmacy White Paper published on 3 April 2008 set out the Government's programme for taking forward national health service pharmaceutical services. We held a series of well attended national events in May 2008 to hear views on the programme and its implementation, including ideas concerning dispensing doctors. A summary report of these events has been placed in the Library and published on the Department's website on 27 August at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083815

In addition, we received a response from the Independent Pharmacy Association and officials have also met various stakeholders, including members of the general practitioners' committee of the British Medical Association, subsequent to publication to discuss areas in more detail.

We are currently consulting, as promised in the White Paper, on a number of proposals for legislative reform, including dispensing by doctors. That consultation ends on 20 November 2008. This consultation is also supported by national listening events that representatives of the British Medical Association are attending.

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care episodes related to *(a)* health visiting, *(b)* community nursing, *(c)* district nursing, *(d)* community psychiatric nursing, *(e)* community learning disability nursing, *(f)* specialist care nursing, *(g)* chiropody services, *(h)* clinical psychology, (i) occupational therapy, *(j)* physiotherapy, *(k)* speech and language therapy and *(l)* community dental services there were in each year since 1990-91. [229837]

Ann Keen: Information about the number of episodes of care is not collected centrally. Some information about the number of new episodes of care is available for 1990-91 to 1999-2000 in fig. 7.2 of the Departmental Report 2001 and for 1998-99 to 2003-04 in fig. 7.2 of the departmental report 2005. Copies of these reports have already been placed in the Library.

More recent data for community dental services is available, and is set out in the following table:

Number of episodes of care with initial contact in the year for the specified financial years in England

	Number (Thousand)
2004-05	444
2005-06	396

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Information was not collected for 2003-04 and no information is available since 2005-06 due to changes following the introduction of the new dental contractual arrangements on 1 April 2006.

As part of the Department's initiative to reduce the burden of data collection on national health service front-line staff, the activity data returns on community nursing were discontinued from April 2004 and those on cross-sector therapy services from April 2005.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1713-4W, on hospitals: infectious diseases, if he will take steps to provide more recent figures than those pertaining to 1994-5. [229818]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 307W, on hospital infectious diseases which refers to a Public Health Laboratory Service study in 1999[1]. The figures in the study are based on a detailed survey of the services and resources needed to treat infections at that time. This major piece of work took several years to complete. The study is still the best estimate of total resource required for each health care acquired infection and current costs can be calculated by applying standard deflators. It will be possible to provide figures for 2007-08 when the relevant deflator is available. When considering cost-per-case, we consider this indicator to be more useful than one that apportions costs across all in-patient episodes.

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[1] R. Plowman, N. Graves, M. Griffin, J. A. Roberts, A. V. Swan, B. Cookson, L. Taylor. The socio-economic burden of hospital acquired infection. Public Health Laboratory Service 1999.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation his Department undertook with *(a)* the public and *(b)* sexual health professionals before deciding to award the human papillomavirus contract to Cervavix. [231222]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department did not consult with the public or sexual health professionals regarding the decision to adopt Cervarix rather than Gardasil as the human papillomavirus vaccine for the national programme to protect against cervical cancer. The decision was based on specific criteria that are available in the reply I gave to the hon. Members for Boston and Skegness and Norwich, North on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 943W.

In Vitro Fertilisation: Finance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many strategic health authorities in England provide no more than one cycle of IVF treatment per patient. [230425]

Dawn Primarolo: In a survey carried out by the Department in autumn 2007, all primary care trusts (PCTs) in the South East Coast and South Central strategic health authorities (SHAs) reported a maximum provision of one cycle of in vitro fertilisation (IVF). PCTs across other SHAs reported providing one or more cycles. From April 2009 the East of England SHA will move to three cycles of IVF in line with the fertility guideline produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. A copy of this has been placed in the Library.

Junior Doctors: Training

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what length and type of training trainee and junior doctors undertake at each medical school on the dispensing of medicines; and if he will make a statement. [231159]

Ann Keen: The training of doctors in medical school is the responsibility of the General Medical Council, which has the statutory responsibility to determine the extent and knowledge and skill required for the granting of primary medical qualifications in the UK.

The content and standard of postgraduate medical training is the responsibility of the postgraduate medical education and training board, which is the competent authority for postgraduate medical training in the UK.

Maternity Services: Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS maternity services in each region of England in each financial year from 1997-98 to 2001-02. [231292]

Ann Keen: Information on maternity services expenditure is not available by region prior to 2001-02. However, the following tables show the expenditure for maternity services in England for the years 1997-98 to 2000-01 and the expenditure by strategic health authority (SHA) in 2001-02.

	£000
1997-98	1,043,881
1998-99	1,096,158
1999-2000	1,166,694
2000-01	1,258,609

Expenditure by SHA 2001-02

SHA	*£000*
East Midlands SHA	123,752
East of England	126,609
London	197,048
North East	73,252
North West	210,257
South Central	90,578
South East Coast	104,604
South West	130,547
West Midlands	145,014
Yorkshire and the Humber	123,119
Total	1,324,780

Source:
Data are from audited health authority summarisation forms for all years and from primary care trust audited summarisation forms for 2000-01 and 2001-02.

Medical Treatments

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on changes to its working practices following judgements in recent judicial review cases. [230450]

Dawn Primarolo: The details of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE's) working practices are a matter for the Institute. Departmental officials regularly meet with NICE to discuss matters affecting its future business, but have not met to discuss working practices in the light of judicial reviews.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 35 of his Department's resource accounts for 2007-08, if he will place in the Library a list of each of the 442 significant control issues, stating in which NHS trust each occurred. [229971]

Mr. Bradshaw: The list of 442 significant control issues reported by national health service trusts and primary care trusts in their statements of internal control for 2007-08, and referred to in the Department's resource accounts for 2007-08, has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Managers

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he holds on *(a)* the number of senior managers who left the NHS with redundancy payments and who have subsequently returned to direct or indirect employment by the NHS and *(b)* the value of redundancy payments paid in such cases. [230991]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Nurses: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses per 100,000 residents there were in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [230635]

Ann Keen: The average number of practice nurses per 100,000 population in *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997 is shown in the tables along with the number of nurses employed in hospitals and the community in England in each year since 1997.

The number of practice nurses per 100,000 population for *(a)* Chesterfield and the number of hospital and community nurses per 100,000 population for Chesterfield and Derbyshire are not available.

Although primary care trusts (PCTs) serve a defined geographical area, hospital trusts are not defined in this way. Consequently it is not possible to give a figure for the number of nurses per 100,000 population, as it would only include those employed directly by the PCT and would be incomplete.

All practice nurses per 100,000 population for selected organisations in England, as at 1997-2007

Number (headcount)

		1997[1]	*1998*[1]	*1999*[1]	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	England total	n/a	n/a	n/a	19,200	19,846	20,983	21,667	22,144	22,904	23,797	22,860
	Total specified organisations	n/a	n/a	n/a	351	351	385	377	433	422	456	486
QCH	North Derbyshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	128	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
QCJ	South Derbyshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	223	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5N7	Derby City PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	112	122	123	132	129	132	135
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	239	263	254	301	293	324	351
	Per 100,000 population											
	England total	n/a	n/a	n/a	39.0	40.1	42.3	43.5	44.2	45.4	46.9	44.7
	Total specified organisations	n/a	n/a	n/a	37.2	37.6	41.0	40.0	45.7	44.3	47.7	50.5
QCH	North Derbyshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	34.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
QCJ	South Derbyshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	38.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5N7	Derby City PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	48.5	52.6	52.8	56.4	54.9	55.9	56.7
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	34.0	37.3	35.8	42.2	40.9	45.0	48.5

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in England by specified organisation, 1997-2007

Number (headcount)

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	England	300,467	304,563	310,142	316,752	330,535	346,537	364,692	375,371	381,257	374,538	376,737

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in England by specified organisation, 1997-2007

Number (headcount)

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	789	818	823	757	887	907	898	938	1,032	964	975
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	763	1,276	1,282	1,331	1,394	1,271	1,280
	Per 100,000 population											
	England[2]	617.4	623.8	632.5	643.4	668.4	697.9	731.3	749.1	755.5	737.8	737.4

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Practice nurse headcount figures are not available on the annual census prior to 2000.

[2] Although PCTs serve a defined geographical area, hospital trusts are not defined in this way. Consequently it is not possible to give a figure for the number of doctors and nurses per 100,000 population as it would only include those employed directly by the PCT and would be incomplete.

[3] In 2006 Amber Valley PCT, Chesterfield PCT, Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT, Erewash PCT, High Peak and Dales PCT and North Eastern Derbyshire PCT merged to form Derbyshire County PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these six predecessor organisations.

Notes:

1. Data for Chesterfield is not available. Data is available for Trusts and PCTs that provide or provided services within the Chesterfield constituency.
2. Data is not available for the specific geographical area of Derbyshire. The data used here is for both PCTs within Derbyshire for comparability as they were formed from the two former health authorities in Derbyshire.
3. Data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-07.

Sources:

1. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics
2. ONS Population figures 1997-2000 mid-year estimates based on 1991 census, 2001-2007 mid year estimates based on 2001 census

Nurses: Schools

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent school nurses there are; and how many full-time equivalent school nurses there have been in each of the last 10 years for which data are available. [231451]

Ann Keen: The annual NHS workforce census collected accurate information on the number of school nurses employed by the national health service in England for the first time in 2004. The number of school nurses from 2004-2007 is shown in the following table.

The 2007 census showed that there were 2,232 qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work, an increase of 613 or 38 per cent. since 2004. Of these there were 893 school nurses with a post-registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 286 or 47 per cent. since 2004.

School nurse numbers: England

	2004	*2005*	*2006*[1]	*2007*	*Increase 2004-07*	*Percentage increase since 2004*
Headcount						
Qualified School nurses	2,409	2,887	2,968	3,162	753	31
Of which:						
Qualified School nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification	856	943	1,129	1,227	371	43
Full-time equivalent						
Qualified School nurses	1,619	1,913	2,053	2,232	613	38
Of which:						
Qualified School Nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification	607	665	815	893	286	47

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than one per cent of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care, non-medical workforce census, general and personal medical services statistics.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the public health responsibilities of school nurses are. [231452]

Ann Keen: School nurses provide health services for the school-aged population with a particular focus on promoting health.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his announcement of 21 October 2008 on patient self-referrals, (1) what estimate he has made of the likely take-up of self-referrals, broken down by socio-economic class; [231069]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that patients do not self-refer inappropriately. [231070]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of this policy in each of the next five financial years; and how many additional health professionals he expects will be needed in each year to deliver the policy, broken down by specialty; [231071]

(4) by what date he expects this policy to be implemented countrywide; [231072]

(5) what estimate he has made of the change in demand for appointments that will result from this policy being implemented, broken down by therapy or specialty; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of such changes on waiting times. [231073]

Ann Keen: No estimates have been made centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to determine where self-referral is clinically appropriate and value to the system and local community.

Self-referral is not mandatory and already operates successfully in many national health service trusts and in many parts of the country. The recently published report "Self-referral pilots to musculoskeletal physiotherapy and the implications for improving access to other AHP services" showed no evidence of increased demand on services. Findings also support the idea that self-referral is associated with lower costs.

A copy of the self-referral report has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_089516?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=175274&Rendition=Web

It will be for local trusts to monitor access by self-referral and we will mandate the measurement of waiting times so that trusts are able to benchmark their performance.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government's commitment to remove charges for cancer patients applies to *(a)* all cancers and *(b)* prostate cancer; and for how long the removal of charges is to be maintained. [229865]

Dawn Primarolo: From 1 April 2009, prescription charges for all cancer patients will be abolished, and over the next few years charges will be abolished for all patients with long-term conditions. We will be making further announcements on the implementation of free prescriptions for cancer patients in due course.

Schizophrenia

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that people with a history of violence who suffer from paranoid schizophrenia do not voluntarily stop taking their medication while living in the community; [228954]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the medical profession complies with the new Community Treatment Orders when treating people with a history of violence who suffer from paranoid schizophrenia; [228955]

(3) if his Department will support doctors who refuse to allow people with a history of violence who suffer from paranoid schizophrenia to self-treat. [228956]

Phil Hope: The Mental Health Act 1983 already provides for people with mental disorders to be detained and treated compulsorily in hospital where necessary for their own health or safety, or the protection of other people. As a result of the Mental Health Act 2007, from 3 November this year it will be possible for clinicians to make a community treatment order discharging certain patients from detention onto supervised community treatment (SCT), subject to the possibility of recall to hospital for further treatment if necessary. SCT will provide a new way to help ensure that people with mental disorders continue to receive the treatment they need after leaving hospital. It will be for clinicians themselves to decide whether eligible patients should be discharged onto SCT.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research his Department has commissioned on medical interventions to prevent genital warts; [231223]

(2) what his current estimate is of *(a)* the average cost of treating a patient for genital warts in England and *(b)* the cost of providing treatment for patients with genital warts in the last 12 months. [231224]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not commissioned specific research on medical interventions to prevent genital warts. The Department did however commission the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the human papillomavirus vaccines 'Economic evaluation of human papillomavirus vaccination in the United Kingdom', a copy of which has been placed in the Library. An element of this was to estimate the cost of treating a patient for anogenital warts, the HPA estimate this at £134 (2006 prices).

Funding to support sexual health services is not allocated separately to primary care trusts (PCTs) but is contained within the mainstream revenue allocations made to PCTs. It is the responsibility of PCTs to commission the health services they need to meet the health requirements of the local populations they serve. Genital warts can be diagnosed and treated in a variety of settings but currently data are only collected from genito-urinary medicine clinics, so it is therefore not possible to accurately forecast how much PCTs spent on treating warts in the last 12 months.

Social Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were receiving local authority-funded care in each local authority area in the latest year for which figures are available; and how many people were receiving *(a)* community-based care and *(b)* residential care in each area. [226307]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes information on the number of people receiving care funded either partly or wholly by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs). The latest validated information, as at March 2007, on the numbers of people receiving community based care and residential care funded by CASSRs has been placed in the Library.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bangladesh: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to promote a peaceful transition to an elected government through the 2008 elections in Bangladesh. [229344]

Bill Rammell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Northampton, North (Ms Keeble) on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 606W. During his October visit to Bangladesh, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, stressed the importance of sustainable democracy to the caretaker government, the main political parties and civil society.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken in the run up to elections in Bangladesh to promote free and fair elections. [229345]

Bill Rammell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my hon. Friend the then FCO Minister of State, Dr. Howells, gave the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 218W. During his October visit, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, reiterated UK support for fair and credible elections to the caretaker government, the main political parties and civil society.

Colombia: Armed Conflict

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the level of paramilitary activity and (ii) the number of internally displaced people in Colombia; and if he will publish the results of such research. [227542]

Gillian Merron: We have not commissioned specific research or evaluation on either issue. However we closely monitor these issues, alongside other human rights issues in Colombia.

Figures vary on the numbers of internally displaced persons in Colombia, but it is clear there is a large number—in excess of three million. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees global appeal report 2008-09 contains more details (http://unhcr.org/home/PUBL/474ac8e8l4.pdf).

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226419]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) uses non-consolidated, non-pensionable bonuses to encourage high performance. We pay annual bonuses to staff in the delegated grades (i.e. all except senior managers) based on appraisal evidence of annual performance. The highest rating and bonus award is given only where performance has significantly exceeded challenging objectives and may have radically transformed delivery of policy and/or services.

We have not yet determined pay or bonus awards for the delegated grades for performance in 2007-08. These will depend on the outcome of negotiations on a new pay settlement for staff in the delegated grades for the period 2008-11.

Variable pay (bonus) arrangements for staff in the Senior Management Structure/Senior Civil Service (SMS/SCS) of the FCO follow a framework set centrally for Whitehall departments by the Cabinet Office. We use variable pay for SMS/SCS staff to reward excellent individual performance and achievement during the year. Variable pay decisions are based on a judgement by pay committees of what an individual has achieved in comparison with peers. Those who have delivered the best results, and shown real leadership in doing so, receive the biggest bonuses. Those who have delivered least receive nothing. Departments are authorised to spend a sum equivalent to 8.6 per cent. of their SMS/SCS pay budget on bonuses to reward performance in 2007-08.

The FCO and FCO Services, a trading fund of the FCO, have so far spent £2,264,250 on 266 bonus payments to SMS/SCS staff for performance in 2007-08. The average size of individual bonuses has been £8,512. 30.5 per cent. of staff have not received a bonus in 2008.

Departmental Security

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies in the last 24 months. [222205]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), or its agencies, have kept no records, prior to January 2007 of passes reported to have been lost or stolen. Details of reports since this date are as follows:

2007—52 passes

2008—33 passes (figure accurate to 24 October 2008)

FCO guidance for staff makes clear that all lost passes should be immediately reported to the police. A replacement pass cann[illegible]ssued without a crime reference number. All [illegible] passes are deactivated immediately, to ensure they cannot be used to gain access to FCO buildings.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of the alleged radicalisation and militarisation of refugees in camps in Darfur by rebel groups; and if he will make a statement. [226088]

Gillian Merron: We assess that there is a threat of violent extremism and radicalisation in the camps in Darfur given the humanitarian and security situation. We are calling on all parties to end the violence; to allow full humanitarian access; to ensure respect for international humanitarian law including the protection of civilians; and to facilitate deployment of the UN-African Union peacekeeping force. The Government continue to work closely with the UN and others to achieve these aims and to improve the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to monitor the potential for renewed conflict in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan; and what steps he is taking to seek to promote peace in the region. [227646]

Gillian Merron: The UK monitors the Nuba mountains and the rest of the "transitional areas" (the Blue Nile, Abeyi and the other parts of the Southern Kordofan) through the UN Mission in Sudan and the Security Working Group of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission which we chair.

We remain concerned about the need to promote peace and reduce the potential for conflict in the Nuba mountains. The UK led a security assessment of the transitional areas, including the Nuba mountains, earlier this year and has established a steering group to address key stability priorities. In 2009-10 we will spend up to £4 million on community security and peace-building in southern Sudan, with much of this money going to the transitional areas.

Thailand: Borders

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage a peaceful resolution of the situation on the Thailand-Cambodia border. [229343]

Bill Rammell: We are closely following the situation on the Thai/Cambodia border. I issued a statement on 16 October urging both sides to exercise restraint and take immediate steps to ease tension and find a peaceful solution to their dispute. Our embassies in Bangkok and Phnom Penh are in regular contact with the Thai and Cambodian Governments, encouraging both sides to resolve this dispute peacefully.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228787]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions recruited 6,393 people between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008. Of these new recruits, 344 (5.4 per cent.) were aged between 55 and 59 and 117 (1.8 per cent.) were aged over 60.

Employee Assistance Programme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff his Department employs to deliver his Department's Employee Assistance Programme, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* pay band. [230093]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP Employee Assistance Programme contract is administered centrally from the Leeds headquarter office by 0.2 pay band F, 0.2 pay band E and 0.5 pay band D, with a senior civil service pay band 1 providing an oversight.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many counsellors there are in his Department's Employee Assistance Programme, broken down by region. [230094]

Jonathan Shaw: There are 19 counsellors delivering the DWP Employee Assistance Programme, with each Government Office Region having at least one counsellor allocated. Additional support from up to 1,200 accredited counsellors spread across the United Kingdom is also available as and when required.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the counselling service offered by his Department's Employee Assistance Programme is delivered to staff in Jobcentre Plus offices who request it. [230095]

Jonathan Shaw: The counselling service offered across DWP, including Jobcentre Plus, provided by the Employee Assistance Programme provider is delivered by the most appropriate means, depending on circumstances, usually by face to face or by telephone.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether requests by staff for services offered by his Department's Employee Assistance Programme are recorded. [230096]

Jonathan Shaw: All requests are recorded and reported in anonymous form to the DWP contract management team by the Employee Assistance Programme service provider.

Incapacity Benefit: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in the London Borough of Bexley are dependent on parents or guardians whose main income source is incapacity benefit. [228240]

Jonathan Shaw: At April 2007, 1,380 children aged 0 to 15 were dependent on a parent or guardian who was claiming incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance.

Notes:

1. Data represents a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and will therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.

2. Data represents children dependent on a parent or guardian claiming incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance as their main benefit.

3. The Department does not have complete information on child dependents on the benefit computer systems. Therefore children have been merged onto incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate

Jobseekers Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1232W, on jobseekers allowance, how many of those jobseeker's allowance claimants aged 16 to 24 years who terminated their claim more than five but less than six months after making an initial claim, moved onto *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* income support after (i) one week, (ii) one month, (iii) three months, (iv) six months and (v) one year of termination. [221726]

James Purnell: The available information is in the following tables.

Number of jobseeker's allowance terminations aged 16 to 24, who terminate their claim between 5 and 6 months, then flow on to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance

		Flowed on to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance						
Quarter ending	*Number of jobseeker's allowance terminations*	*All*	*Within 1 week*	*More than a week but less than 1 month*	*More than a month but less than 3 months*	*More than 3 months but less than 6 months*	*More than 6 months but less than a year*	*More than 1 year*
August 2005	10,600	2,100	600	100	100	200	400	700
November 2005	11,000	1,800	500	100	200	200	300	500
February 2006	8,600	1,600	500	100	100	100	400	n/a
May 2006	13,000	1,900	600	100	200	300	500	n/a
August 2006	11,900	1,500	500	100	100	300	400	n/a
November 2006	11,000	900	500	0	100	100	200	n/a
February 2007	9,600	700	400	100	100	100	n/a	n/a
May 2007	11,900	800	500	100	200	n/a	n/a	n/a
August 2007	10,400	800	600	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Data commence in 2005 to ensure capture of information on people flowing on to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance up to 12 months after the termination of their claim.
3. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. Figures for previous quarters may also be subject to revisions in future quarters.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample and 5 per cent. terminations dataset.

Number of jobseeker's allowance terminations aged 16 to 24, who terminate their claim between 5 and 6 months, then flow on to income support

		Flowed on to income support						
Quarter ending	*Number of jobseeker's allowance terminations*	*All*	*Within 1 week*	*More than a week but less than 1 month*	*More than a month but less than 3 months*	*More than 3 months but less than 6 months*	*More than 6 months but less than a year*	*More than 1 year*
August 2005	10,600	2,300	600	200	200	200	400	700
November 2005	11,000	2,000	700	200	100	200	200	500
February 2006	8,600	2,100	800	200	200	200	400	n/a
May 2006	13,000	2,000	700	100	200	300	400	n/a
August 2006	11,900	1,700	600	100	200	200	500	n/a
November 2006	11,000	1,300	400	100	100	100	100	n/a
February 2007	9,600	1,000	700	100	0	100	n/a	n/a
May 2007	11,900	1,000	600	100	200	n/a	n/a	n/a
August 2007	10,400	1,000	800	200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Data commence in 2005 to ensure capture of information on people flowing on to income support up to 12 months after the termination of their claim.
3. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. Figures for previous quarters may also be subject to revisions in future quarters.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample and 5 per cent. terminations dataset.

Members: Correspondence

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on whether chief executives of his Department's executive agencies should reply personally to letters sent directly to them by hon. Members. [227840]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* As set out in the Department's departmental framework, published in December 2005, the Secretary of State normally asks the relevant chief executive to write to Members of Parliament or peers in response to individual letters about matters that have been delegated. Ministers also encourage Members of both Houses to write directly to agency chief executives, or appropriate senior managers in respect of non-agency businesses, on matters for which they have day to day responsibility. Members of Parliament and peers are entitled to raise with Ministers any reply from a chief executive or other official.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department's office at Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's correspondence of 2 September on his constituent Mrs. Janette Ramsay. [228828]

Jonathan Shaw: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 24 October 2008.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of pensioners living in poverty in West Chelmsford constituency. [230518]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

Our public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government Office Region. Latest information for East of England on the numbers of pensioners below each of these thresholds is given in the following table.

Number of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, East of England, 2004-05 to 2006-07

	Number (million)
Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income	0.2
Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income	0.1
Below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median household income uprated in line with prices	0.1

1. Three survey year averages are given as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.
5. Numbers of pensioners in low income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 pensioners.

Poverty: Children

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children have been moved out of poverty in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds City area and *(c)* the UK since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [228291]

Kitty Ussher: The available information, published in the "Households Below Average Income Series", is that between 1998-99 and 2006-07 there was a 600,000 reduction in the number of children living in households with incomes below 60 per cent., of median contemporary income Before Housing Costs.

Figures before 1998-99 cover only GB, not the UK as a whole.

The Households Below Average Income Series cannot provide information below the level of Government office region.

The constituencies of Leeds West and Leeds Metropolitan are within the Government Office Region for Yorkshire and the Humber. In Yorkshire and the Humber between 2004-05 and 2006-07, on a Before Housing Costs basis, there were on average 0.3 million children living in a household with below 60 per cent. of median income.

Since 1996-97 to1998-99, the risk of living in a household with below 60 per cent., median income for children in Yorkshire and Humberside has fallen from 32 per cent. to 25 per cent. in 2004-05 to 2006-07.

When presenting results by Government Office Region, in order to ensure that estimates of changes over time yield a reliable picture of how different regions have experienced changes, the risk and number of children living in poverty by region is given as a three year average. The latest three year average is for 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the effect on benefit entitlement is for someone who leaves the UK to live overseas for a number of years and then returns to the UK. [224949]

Kitty Ussher: If a person returns to the United Kingdom from overseas and makes an immediate claim for an income-related benefit such as income support, pension credit, housing benefit or council tax benefit they are required to satisfy the habitual residence test. To satisfy the test a person must first show that they have a right to reside and secondly that they are habitually resident in the Common Travel Area (CTA). The CTA includes the UK, as well as the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and the Republic of Ireland.

In deciding whether a person is habitually resident, decision makers, who decide entitlement to benefit, consider a wide variety of factors. These include reasons for coming to the United Kingdom, the length of their stay, future intentions, previous links with the country and, in the case of people returning to the United Kingdom, the reasons for their absence.

Contributory benefits are generally payable to anyone that satisfies the contribution and other conditions for the benefit regardless of nationality and length of time in the United Kingdom.

TICC Skill Centres: Redundancy

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 623-24W, on TICC Ltd: redundancy, what his Department's policy is on the retention and destruction of such records. [222749]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's policy on the retention and destruction of such documents is set out in the DWP Registered File Guide, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 623-4W, on TICC Ltd: redundancy, whether his Department consulted other departments and public bodies on the availability of such records before providing a response. [222746]

Jonathan Shaw: Yes. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families were consulted, but it was not believed at that point that any such records existed.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 623-4W, on TICC Ltd: Redundancy, what the reasons were for the time taken to reply. [222747]

Jonathan Shaw: As this matter dated back to the early 1990s, it was not clear at the time when the earlier question was asked which Department had responsibility for residual matters relating to TICC Ltd. This necessitated discussions between officials in this Department, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 623-4W, on TICC Ltd: Redundancy, whether the records relating to *(a)* the terms of transfer of and *(b)* compensation payments made to former Department of Employment staff have been destroyed. [222748]

Jonathan Shaw: It is now clear that some records relating to the terms of the transfer of staff from the then Skills Training Agency to TICC Ltd do still exist and are currently held by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. They confirm that at the time TICC Ltd went into liquidation 48 civil servants were made redundant and received ex gratia compensation payments from public funds. The payments were based on the settlement each would have received had they been made redundant by the Skills Training Agency at the time of the sale, less any statutory redundancy pay to which they were entitled.

Unemployment: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* employment and *(b)* unemployment rate was for lone parents in each of the last 24 months (i) in the UK and (ii) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [230281]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply to the hon. Member.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) employment and (b) unemployment rate was for lone parents in each of the last 24 months (i) nationally and (ii) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available. (230281)

The table shows the employment and unemployment rates for lone parents of working-age with dependent children for the United Kingdom, each Government office region and for each local authority for the calendar years 2006 and 2007. Data are not available on a monthly basis. A copy of the table has been placed in the Library.

Estimates are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets for the periods January-December 2006 and January-December 2007.

As the group in question is very specific the estimates at local authority level are based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for these estimates and they are deemed unreliable for practical purposes.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to publish plans to tackle alcohol-related crime. [227845]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: The Government have published plans to tackle alcohol related crime. The most recent of these include the Youth alcohol action plan which was published in June 2008 and the written ministerial statement of 4 March 2008 in response to the review of the Licensing Act.

The written ministerial statement set out the Government's plan to amend legislation and to ensure that current powers to tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder are being fully utilised. The Youth Alcohol Action Plan announced the Government's intention to introduce a tiered approach to address public drinking by young people. This includes greater use of acceptable behaviour contracts and antisocial behaviour orders for those that repeatedly drink in public places, coupled with greater use of parenting contracts and orders to ensure that parents take responsibility for their child's actions.

In addition, the national alcohol strategy 'Safe.Sensible.Social' published in June 2007 set out the overarching plans to tackle alcohol related problems, one of those being alcohol related crime. Further details of the national alcohol strategy can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/alcohol-strategy-announced?version=1

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for the offence of obtaining alcohol for a person who is drunk in each of the last three years. [228534]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 20 October 2008]*: The number of people prosecuted for the offence of obtaining alcohol for someone who is drunk can be found in the following table. Data for 2007 will be available in November 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for obtaining alcohol for a person who is drunk, England and Wales, 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Number
2004	—
2005	1
2006	1

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The statutes used in the above table are:
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.3 Sch. Para 7.
Licensing Act 2003 S. 142

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders have been recorded in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London since their inception. [229440]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from April 1999. The latest ASBO breach data are only available for the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006.

Information collected centrally on the number of ASBO breaches relates only to those ASBOs proven in court to have been breached and is not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

For the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006, ASBOs were proven in court to have been breached on 2,077 occasions in the Greater London CJS area. It is possible for an ASBO to be breached more than once.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders have been recorded in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire since their inception. [231106]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from April 1999. The latest ASBO breach data are only available for the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006.

Information collected centrally on the number of ASBO breaches relates only to those ASBOs proven in court to have been breached and is not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

For the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006, ASBOs were proven in court to have been breached on 253 occasions in the Hertfordshire CJS area. It is possible for an ASBO to be breached more than once.

Asylum

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each country of origin used the 1951 Convention on Refugees exemption from prosecution defence when attempting to enter the UK using false documentation in each of the last five years. [229266]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Force maintains no such specific records of persons benefiting from a defence under article 31 of the 1951 Convention, relating to the status of refugees.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum cases were concluded in each year since 2003 because the claimant's country of origin had acceded to the EU, broken down by *(a)* country of origin and *(b)* year of original application. [229285]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office does not collate figures on the number of asylum cases that have been concluded in each year since 2003 because the claimant's country of origin had acceded to the EU.

The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examining the case files of all applicants from the 12 countries that have acceded to the EU since 2003.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers her Department estimates used false documentation to travel to the UK in each of the last five years. [229286]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is not collated and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records and therefore at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers received section *(a)* 4 and *(b)* 95 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 in each year since the Act came into force. [229267]

Jacqui Smith: The information is as follows.

(a) Published information on the number of asylum seekers who were supported under section 4 is available from 2005 in the Asylum Statistics Annual Bulletin, available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

The following table shows the number of applicants, excluding dependants, recorded as being in receipt of Section 4 support as at the end of the period in each respective year.

(b) Published information on the number of asylum seekers who received section 95 support is available from 2000 in the Asylum Statistics Annual Bulletin, available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The following table shows the number of applicants, including dependants, recorded as being in receipt of section 95 support (dispersed accommodation and subsistence only) as at the end of the period in each respective year.

Applicants, excluding dependants, in receipt of support under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 at the end of the period[1]

As at end	*Number of applicants on section four support*
March 2005[2]	5,200
December 2005	5,180
December 2006	6,555
December 2007	9,140

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5.

[2] This was the first snapshot produced on Section 4.

Supported asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 support at the end of the period[1]

As at end	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	December each year							
Asylum seekers supported in dispersed accommodation	13,530	40,325	54,045	49,760	40,750	35,140	36,420	34,150
Asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support	8,870	25,310	37,815	30,360	20,875	14,290	11,355	8,900
Total	22,400	65,635	91,860	80,125	61,625	49,430	47,775	43,050

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of administering section *(a)* 4 and *(b)* 95 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 has been in each year since the Act came into force. [229268]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency provides a range of support for asylum seekers who are, or who may become, destitute. It is not possible to identify separately administrative costs relating to individual lines of support. Total Home Office expenditure on asylum seekers for the years 2000-01 to 2007-08 inclusive is shown as follows, as is the cost of direct support and also total administration costs:

£ million

	Total Home Office expenditure on asylum support	Of which: Support costs	Of which: Administration costs
2000-01	783	750	33
2001-02	1,082	1,046	36
2002-03	1,124	1,092	32
2003-04	1,070	1,035	35
2004-05	854	814	34
2005-06	667	626	34
2006-07	550	515	25
2007-08	531	485	25

Crime: Young People

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of victims of crime were aged between 14 and 19 years in *(a)* the London Borough of Newham, *(b)* the London Borough of Hackney, *(c)* the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and *(d)* London in the latest period for which figures are available. [228824]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the percentage of victims of crime aged between 14 and 19 years in *(a)* the London borough of Newham, *(b)* the London borough of Hackney, *(c)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(d)* London is not available from the British Crime Survey (BCS) or police recorded crime data. However, following a recommendation of the independent Smith review of the Home Office crime statistics, the British Crime Survey is being extended to include those aged under 16 years from 2009. This will assist in providing a clearer understanding of youth victimisation. We know that young people are more likely to be victims of other young people, and we are committed to driving down levels of youth victimisation. Through the implementation of the Youth Crime Action Plan, we will introduce a new national objective to substantially reduce the number of young victims by 2020.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of crimes were committed by 14 to 19 years old in *(a)* the London Borough of Newham, *(b)* the London Borough of Hackney, *(c)* the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and *(d)* London in the latest period for which figures are available. [228825]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the number of crimes committed by 14 to 19-years-olds in *(a)* the London borough of Newham, *(b)* the London borough of Hackney, *(c)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(d)* London in the latest period for which figures are available is not available from the British Crime Survey (BCS) or police recorded crime data.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of crimes in Hemel Hempstead were committed by 14 to 19-year-olds in the latest period for which figures are available. [229660]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the number of crimes committed by 14 to 19-year-olds in Hemel Hempstead in the latest period for which figures are available is not available from the British Crime Survey (BCS) or police recorded crime data.

Departmental Postal Services

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes her Department has made to the postal delivery service it uses for returning documents to members of the public in the last 10 years; when these changes were made; and for what reasons they were made. [228973]

Meg Hillier: To provide a response across the whole of the Home Office area of business would be disproportionate to costs. However, for passports, the Identity and Passport Service despatched passports by Royal Mail first class post until February 2004. Since then new passports have been despatched by Secure Delivery, a secure courier service provided by Secure Mail Services, a private contractor. Customers can also opt for the return of their supporting documents by Secure Delivery on payment of a fee of £3.00.

This change was due to the high numbers of passports lost within the Royal Mail. In 2003, the last year of the Royal Mail arrangements, 3,593 passports were recorded as lost in the delivery process. Following the introduction of secure delivery, losses have been around 720 in the last two years; a reduction of over 80 per cent. The recent introduction of handheld GPS technology for couriers should significantly reduce this figure further.

Deportation: Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid in compensation since April 2006 to foreign prisoners held in custody beyond the expiry of their sentence while awaiting deportation. [227001]

Jacqui Smith: Information on successful claims for compensation made by foreign prisoners held in detention post sentence is not held centrally. It would be necessary to obtain information from all government agencies and departments who may have received claims for compensation at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which states the UK has signed memorandums of understanding intended to facilitate the deportation from the UK of individuals who are nationals of those states; how many persons have been deported to each country under the provisions of such memorandums; and with which states the Government is seeking to agree such memorandums. [230911]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* Memoranda of understanding on deportation with assurances were signed with Jordan, Lebanon and Libya in 2005. Separate arrangements, set out in an exchange of letters in July 2006, apply in respect of Algeria.

The Government are pursuing similar agreements with other countries, but it would not be appropriate to identify the countries concerned until the negotiations have been concluded. Copies of any new agreements will be placed in the House Library.

To date, no-one has been deported to Jordan, Lebanon or Libya on the basis of assurances received under the memoranda of understanding with those countries. Eight men have been deported to Algeria, having withdrawn their appeals against the decision to deport them. 11 other cases are at various stages in the appeals process.

Dispersal Orders

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispersal orders were issued by each police authority area in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [229732]

Mr. Alan Campbell: 1,065 areas were designated under section 30 of the Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 between 1 January 2004 and 31 March 2006 and this information broken down by police force area is enclosed in the following table. Information on the number of designated areas for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008 will be published shortly.

Designated areas[1]

Force	*Number*
Avon and Somerset	30
Bedfordshire	29
Cambridgeshire	31
Cheshire	1
City of London	[2]—
Cleveland	3
Cumbria	2
Derbyshire	22
Devon and Cornwall	49
Dorset	31
Durham	2
Dyfed Powys	[2]—
Essex	24
Gloucestershire	1
Greater Manchester	45
Gwent	6
Hampshire	69
Hertfordshire	20
Humberside	15
Kent	73
Lancashire	18
Leicestershire	30
Lincolnshire	4
Merseyside	70
Metropolitan Police	[3]—
Norfolk	18
North Wales	16
North Yorkshire	6
Northamptonshire	67
Northumbria	3
Nottinghamshire	40
South Wales	2
South Yorkshire	16
Staffordshire	30
Suffolk	5
Surrey	33
Sussex	35
Thames Valley	6
Warwickshire	22
West Midlands	123
West Yorkshire	22
West Mercia	[3]—
Wiltshire	19
Total	1,065

[1] January 2004 to March 2006

[2] No designated areas.

[3] No data provided.

Driving Offences: Fixed Penalties

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty tickets for motoring offences were issued to non-UK residents in the last 12 months; and how many of those remain unpaid. [229951]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available.

It is not possible from the information held by the Home Office to match persons who have been issued with fixed penalty tickets with details of residency in the UK. The statistics are collected through aggregate returns which prevent any matching with other data sources.

Drugs: Crime Prevention

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat drug-related crime. [228574]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to reducing the harms caused by illegal drugs, including drug-related crime. Most recently the Government have committed through public service agreement (PSA) 25 to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs. Within this PSA three indicators relate to drugs; one of which is a commitment to reduce the rate of drug-related offending.

Recent assessment of effectiveness has shown that good progress has been made in combating drug related crime.

The previous public service agreement relating to drugs (PSA 4) committed the Government to reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs; a key measure of effectiveness in relation to this PSA is assessed by the Drug Harm Index, the single largest element of which is drug related crime. Latest figures show that since 2002 the Drug Harm Index has fallen by 28.4 per cent., representing a substantial fall in drug related crime types. As there is some delay in the availability of data which contribute to this measure, we continue to gather performance data relating to the previous PSA using the Drug Harm Index.

Effectiveness in relation to PSA 4 is also assessed through monitoring the numbers of drug users entering treatment through the Criminal Justice System. The Government's target to increase the number of drug misusers entering drug treatment through the Criminal Justice System to 1,000 per week was met two months early in January 2008 and we are currently consistently achieving over 4,000 entering treatment each month.

The Government's Drug Interventions programme (DIP) was introduced in 2003 and is central in delivering drug misusers into treatment via the criminal justice system. Recent research on DIP found that around half of offenders who came into contact with DIP had 79 per cent. lower levels of offending in the six months after their contact with the programme. The overall volume of offending for the entire cohort was 26 per cent. lower.

Latest published figures on recorded crime show that recorded acquisitive crime—to which drug-related crime makes a significant contribution—has fallen by 28 per cent. since 2002-03.

The Home Office also carries out a broad programme of scientific research to assess the effectiveness of individual interventions in relation to drugs. Home Office research is regularly published on the Home Office website. Much of the relevant evidence is summarised in Appendix 5 of the Government's new Drug Strategy, published in February 2008—"Drugs: protecting families and communities":

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publicationsearch/drugstrategy/drugstrategy2008?view=Binary

The new strategy underpins action to achieve Government commitments on drug related crime. The strategy sets out a comprehensive and co-ordinated framework, which builds on the significant successes of the last strategy, while placing a new focus on meeting the needs of families and communities, and on achieving better treatment outcomes for individuals who have developed drug misuse problems.

The Government are committed to reducing drug-related crime and will continue to monitor this through the new PSAs and through research.

Firearms: Detection Rates

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate was for offences involving firearms in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* police force area. [228896]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is not available centrally.

Genetics: Databases

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the British population has a DNA sample stored on the national DNA database. [229176]

Mr. Alan Campbell: At 30 June 2008, the estimated number of individuals with a record on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) held for all United Kingdom police forces was 4,503,186. The most recent estimate of the United Kingdom population published by the Office for National Statistics is that, at mid-2007, it was 60,975,000. Comparing these two figures gives a figure of 7.39 per cent. of the United Kingdom population having a record on the NDNAD. This figure does not take account of any increase in the United Kingdom population between mid-2007 and 30 June 2008, and is, therefore, likely to be a slight overstatement.

Highly Skilled Migrant Programme

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many permits were issued under the highly skilled migrant programme or tier 1 of the points based system in each month of 2008; which the top 10 countries of origin were in this period; and how many permits were issued to applicants from each of those countries. [227449]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* The information is as follows:

HSMP in and out of country initial applications granted, period January to September 2008

	January	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
Number	2,845	2,825	2,300	2,000	1,125	1,085	1,150	1,075	2,160

HSMP In and Out of Country Initial Applications Granted, Top 10 Nationalities Period January to September 2008

Top 10 Nationalities	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
India	1,175	1,205	915	860	385	435	635	390	120
Pakistan	370	305	260	240	100	95	65	115	385
Australia	175	240	205	180	155	80	85	115	345
Nigeria	235	190	200	170	95	105	85	130	270
New Zealand	105	130	105	80	70	60	55	65	215
South Africa	85	105	110	85	55	65	45	70	240
America	80	75	55	35	35	40	30	25	85
China	60	65	60	40	25	10	5	10	40
Sri Lanka	50	55	45	25	10	20	5	20	55
Russia	30	30	20	20	10	10	10	10	50

PBS Tier 1 initial applications granted, period March to September 2008

	March	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
In Country	90	1,610	2,575	3,585	4,010	6,765	9,895
Out of Country	0	30	190	205	590	1,075	1,370

PBS Tier 1 in country only initial applications granted, top 10 nationalities period March to September 2008

Top 10 Nationalities (in country)	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
India	55	895	1,440	1,895	2,020	3,120	4,005
Pakistan	5	130	180	295	325	770	1,365
Nigeria	0	65	105	160	265	460	775
China	5	85	85	120	125	265	605
Australia	5	75	125	180	160	230	280
Sri Lanka	0	35	60	90	95	180	265
South Africa	5	50	60	110	120	175	170
America	5	35	80	80	85	145	210
New Zealand	5	45	65	90	80	110	105
Bangladesh	0	10	35	30	35	140	245

PBS Tier 1 – out of country applications granted – top 10 nationalities April to September 2008

Top 10 Nationalities (out of country)	*April*	*May*	*Jun*	*July*	*Aug*	*September*
India	30	190	200	305	520	565
United States	—	[1]—	5	85	140	170
South Africa	—	—	—	70	110	120
New Zealand	—	—	—	20	85	120
Australia	[1]—	—	—	30	35	105
Nigeria	—	—	—	20	50	85
China	—	—	—	25	50	55
Pakistan	—	—	—	10	45	70
Canada	—	—	—	15	30	35
Russia	—	—	—	10	10	45

[1] Less than 3

Note:

Figures are rounded to nearest 5

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions there were for human trafficking offences in each police force area in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [229295]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the total number of arrests are currently being finalised, and will be made available in due course, as is the number of convictions by force area.

However, to date there have been a total of 90 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation with four convictions for trafficking for forced labour which were secured on 22 October.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* her international counterparts on combating human trafficking into the UK. [230108]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* I maintain regular contact with ministerial colleagues in relation to our strategy to combat human trafficking which is overseen by the Inter Departmental Ministerial Group and particularly on the progress made by the

United Kingdom to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the end of the year as the Home Secretary announced in January.

In the international arena we maintain a dialogue at both ministerial and official level with our partner countries through the United Nations, European Union and bilaterally. In November Ministers will attend the third World Congress in Rio de Janeiro to speak about what the UK is doing to combat the trafficking of children.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for trafficking for labour exploitation have been made under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004. [230536]

Mr. Alan Campbell: To date there have been four convictions of people for trafficking for the purposes of forced labour.

Human Trafficking: Extradition

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been extradited to work in order to be prosecuted in the UK for offences relating to the trafficking of human beings in the last 10 years; [229033]

(2) how many UK citizens were extradited in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997 to be prosecuted abroad for offences relating to the trafficking of human beings. [229034]

Meg Hillier: Extradition casework in England and Wales is carried out by the Home Office's Judicial Cooperation Unit (JCU) and by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). The Home Office administers extradition between England and Wales and non-EU states. Extradition between England and Wales and EU states (and Gibraltar) is effected by the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) and is administered by SOCA. The EAW has been in operation in the UK since 1 January 2004.

SOCA's EAW records show that four individuals have been extradited to the UK for human trafficking offences and one for the facilitation of illegal immigration. In 2007, one UK citizen was extradited from the UK for human trafficking offences and one for human smuggling and forgery offences; and there were two further extraditions in that year from the UK for human trafficking offences where the nationality of the extraditees is not known.

The Home Office has statistics for its extraditions only since 1998. These show that there have been no non-EAW extraditions to or from England and Wales for the offence of human trafficking or people smuggling in that period.

Human Trafficking: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted for crimes relating to human trafficking in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [230265]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: There have been 16 prosecutions in Lancashire for human trafficking related offences of which eight have resulted in convictions.

Data on the number of arrests is currently being finalised and is not yet available.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each country of origin were prosecuted for using false documentation to enter the UK in each of the last five years. [229287]

Jacqui Smith: Aggregate details regarding the countries of origin of those prosecuted for using false documentation to enter the UK are not recorded. The following figures, however, relate to prosecutions carried out by Border Force prosecution teams at ports of entry, where false documentation has been presented:

Period 1 April to 31 March each year	*Total persons prosecuted in relation to false documentation*
2003-04	245
2004-05	218
2005-06	530
2006-07	611
2007-08	465

The data provided is based on locally-collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

Interception Modernisation Programme

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of the interception modernisation programme. [228993]

Jacqui Smith: The objective of the Interception Modernisation Programme (IMP) is to maintain the UK's lawful intercept and communications data capabilities in the changing communications environment. It is a cross-government programme, led by the Home Office, to ensure that our capability to lawfully intercept and exploit data when fighting crime and terrorism is not lost. It was established in response to the Prime Minister's National Security remit in 2006.

Given the commercial and national security sensitivities, the precise costs of the programme cannot be disclosed. Further detail on budgetary estimates for the IMP will however become available once the public consultation process, which I announced on 15 October, commences in the new year.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer the letter of 15 July 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr N. Ali. [224117]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 September 2008]*: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 22 September 2008.

Offensive Weapons: Schizophrenia

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people suffering from paranoid schizophrenia have been convicted of knife crimes in each of the last five years. [228953]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on court proceedings does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which prosecutions are brought. For example, it is not possible to separately identify those offenders convicted of knife crimes who were suffering from paranoid schizophrenia. As a result the information requested on court proceedings is not available.

Passports: Lost Property

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports were lost by the Identity and Passport Service in transit to the passport holder in each year since 1997. [229308]

Meg Hillier: Losses of passports while in the delivery process to customers since 2001 are as follows:

	Number
2001	2,541
2002	2,982
2003	3,593
2004	601
2005	1,018
2006	727
2007	716

There are no figures available prior to 2001.

Prior to February 2004, Royal Mail first-class post was used for the delivery of passports. Since then, the Identity and Passport Service have used a secure courier service provided by Secure Mail Services for the dispatch of new passports and valid British passports submitted in support of passport applications. The introduction of Secure Delivery has seen losses reduce by over 80 per cent. Couriers are now equipped with hand-held GPS devices to improve on accuracy of delivery and losses are expected to reduce further.

All lost passports are entered on to our database of lost and stolen passports which is available to the UK Border Agency and Interpol.

Passports: Postal Services

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of Royal Mail's delivery options is used by her Department for the return of passports and visas to applicants; whether the option requires a signature on delivery; and how much compensation the option provides for lost items. [228974]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) do not use the Royal Mail for the delivery of British passports. New passports are returned to customers via a secure courier service, provided by Secure Mail Services. Mandatory customer signatures are required for around four per cent., of deliveries in areas of high risk. In all other cases, couriers are asked to obtain a signature where a customer is available. Currently this happens for around 45 per cent., of deliveries in non high risk areas.

Customer's supporting documents are returned by Royal Mail second class post unless a valid British passport is to be returned, when Secure Delivery is used. IPS strongly recommends that customers choose Secure Delivery for the return of their documents at a cost of £3.00, and advises customers that IPS will not be liable for the loss of any documents despatched by second class post.

IPS will compensate customers to the cost of obtaining replacement documents where a loss is suffered through the use of Secure Delivery.

The UK Border Agency does not send visas to addresses in the UK and do not keep records of any documents that have been lost in the post overseas. Such information could be obtained only by examining individual visa applications and therefore at disproportionate cost.

Public Order Offences: Religion

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought against persons or organisations engaging in religious proselytising on the grounds of threats to public order in each year since 1997. [230099]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 amended the Public Order Act 1986 to introduce the offence of incitement to religious hatred, to go alongside the existing incitement to racial hatred offence. It was implemented in October 2007 and there have been no prosecutions.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department has taken steps to protect commercial depositors in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Limited; [227630]

(2) what steps the Government has taken following the collapse of Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Limited. [227631]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 279-80, and to the three press statements (101/08,102/08 and 103/08) published by the Treasury on 7 and 8 October. These are available on the Treasury website.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to protect the money deposited by Naomi House with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander. [227882]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The Government have put in place arrangements to ensure that all FSCS-eligible depositors in the Icelandic banks of Landsbanki, Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and

Friedlander will receive their money in full. If a charity is eligible to claim compensation from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, it will be entitled to benefit from these arrangements.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what protection the Government is giving to depositors with savings in multiple deposit-taking institutions under a single Financial Services Authority registration. [231017]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for making the rules of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) and is considering whether the compensation scheme should continue to offer compensation on a per authorised entity basis or should move to a per brand or per account basis. If appropriate, the FSA will consult on specific proposals in due course.

Banks: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the standards of auditing of banks following the recent banking difficulties; [228649]

(2) what discussions the Chancellor has had with the accountancy profession about audit standards and quality in respect of the auditing of banks in the last three years; and what discussions he intends to have in the next 12 months. [228679]

Ian Pearson: The Department is responsible for the legal and policy framework for the regulation of auditing. The body responsible for regulation of auditing and the audit profession is the Financial Reporting Council. Through its subsidiary bodies, it sets UK audit standards, provides guidance on their application, reviews compliance and undertakes oversight and independent discipline of the auditing profession. As part of its responsibilities, the FRC independently monitors the quality of auditing for major public interest entities and, during the recent financial market turmoil, has been paying particular attention to the audits of financial institutions to ensure that the relevant standards are properly applied. The FRC reports publicly on its audit monitoring.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulations he has introduced to govern bank liquidity over the last five years. [230469]

Ian Pearson: This is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), which set a unified framework of systems and controls under which banks manage liquidity risks in 2004. The FSA is proposing to consult on a new liquidity risk management framework and new reporting requirements before the end of this year.

Banks: Pay

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct the Financial Services Authority to issue formal guidance or a code of conduct for the banking sector in respect of remuneration policy. [228802]

Ian Pearson: On 13 October the Chief Executive of the Financial Services Authority wrote to the Chief Executives of the major banks and building societies, setting out the criteria for remuneration policies and practices which are properly aligned to sound risk management and controls.

Credit Unions

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government is guaranteeing accounts held in credit unions; and if he will make a statement. [228283]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor of the Exchequer has made it clear that he will do whatever it takes to protect depositors and to maintain financial stability.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213519]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury did not purchase any motor vehicles between 2005-06 and 2007-08. Details of the Department's spending on furniture and equipment and antiques is shown in the note 11.1 in the relevant resource account for each year. Copies of the Treasury's resource accounts are available on the Treasury's website

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
resource_accounting_and_budgeting_about_us.htm.

HC 1344 covers 2005-06, HC 518 2006-07 and HC 539 2007-08.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227478]

Angela Eagle: I understand that the Treasury has not held any citizens' juries during the period concerned.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230963]

Ian Pearson: None.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222034]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 91W.

Financial Services: Regulation

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether financial services regulation is an exclusive competence of the European Union. [230845]

Ian Pearson: The regulation of financial services is an exclusive EU competence where the EU has adopted directives and regulations in the field and where there is general EU law that applies to financial firms, for example, the state aid rules. Member states can only legislate in the field covered by a directive (unless explicitly allowed to do so by the directive) in order to implement EU law, to provide further necessary detail or to ensure its proper enforcement, for example by adding sanctions for non-compliance.

Where permissible under a directive, a member state may go further than EU law. but only if it does not contradict EU law.

Some issues concerning regulation of financial services are not covered by EU competence, for example regulation of mortgage lending.

Government Securities

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of *(a)* index linked and *(b)* conventional gilts auctioned by the Debt Management Office in each of the last 12 months. [230782]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is available in the monthly issuance report, which can be accessed on the DMO website at:

http://www.dmo.gov.uk/index.aspx?page=Gilts/Net_Issuance_Data

Personal Income

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people earned over *(a)* £100,000 and *(b)* £250,000 respectively a year on the latest date for which figures are available; what percentage of the workforce each represents; and what estimate he has made of the additional revenue which would accrue to the Exchequer if (i) those earning £100,000 or more were taxed at (A) 50 per cent. and (B) 60 per cent. and (ii) if those earning £250,000 or more were taxed at (C) 60 per cent. and (D) 70 per cent. [229986]

Mr. Timms: The estimated numbers of UK taxpayers in 2008-09 with incomes in excess of the thresholds requested, and the proportion of taxpayers these represent, are in the table.

	Threshold	
	£100,000	*£250,000*
Number of taxpayers with income above the threshold	650,000	120,000
Percentage of taxpayers	2.1	0.4

Table 2a of the Generic Tax Table 2008-09: "Additional full-year yield from the introduction of additional higher rates of tax on GROSS incomes (Earnings and Savings) over a specific amount" contains comprehensive information on income tax and is available in the Library of the House. This table shows the yield from an additional higher rate band of tax at various thresholds, but the yield from a combination of two higher rate bands can also be derived. It excludes any estimates of behavioural response which could be significant and might eliminate a large proportion of the yield from any new higher rate bands.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* persons and *(b)* households with assets, excluding dwellings, over (i) £1 million, (ii) £5 million, (iii) £10 million and (iv) £20 million; and if he will estimate the revenue which would accrue to the Exchequer of an annual levy of (A) 1 per cent. of the wealth of those with assets over £1 million, (B) 1.5 per cent. of the wealth of those with assets over £5 million, (C) 2 per cent. of the wealth of those with assets over £10 million and (D) 3 per cent. of the wealth of those with assets over £20 million. [229988]

Ian Pearson: Estimates of the numbers of persons and households with wealth above certain levels, where wealth excludes the value of dwellings, are not available.

Estimates of the revenue from an annual levy on wealth excluding the value of dwellings are also not available.

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230504]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury has not submitted any publications for approval for Crystal Mark status in any of the following financial years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08.

Public Works Loan Board

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value is of outstanding loans made by the Public Works Loan Board. [230936]

Ian Pearson: At 30 September 2008, outstanding PWLB debt amounted to £51,656,134,289.49.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what value of new loans was made by the Public Works Loan Board in each of the last 12 months. [230938]

Ian Pearson: The PWLB made loans totalling £6,118,253,531 to local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales in the 12 months to end-September 2008. According to figures provided by the PWLB, the total loaned in each of the last 12 months is listed as follows:

	£
31 October 2007	662,180,704
30 November 2007	710,885,173
31 December 2007	531,235,000
31 January 2008	785,009,109
29 February 2008	171,433,500
31 March 2008	1,099,202,504
30 April 2008	532,656,500
31 May 2008	535,933,981
30 June 2008	55,743,765
31 July 2008	221,360,345
31 August 2008	571,557,000
30 September 2008	241,055,950

Repossession Orders

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of house repossessions which have taken place in *(a)* Southend West constituency and *(b)* the United Kingdom as a result of the current financial situation; what steps he (i) has taken and (ii) plans to take to assist people facing repossession of their property; and if he will make a statement. [229512]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not hold these figures. The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes the total numbers of properties taken into possession, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

In 2004 the Government extended the scope of Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulation to cover mortgages, helping ensure suitable protection for borrowers, including those experiencing arrears or repossession.

On 22 October, the Government confirmed that the Master of the Rolls had approved a new protocol for mortgage possession cases, which complements existing regulation, and sets out clear standards that judges may expect of lenders bringing repossession cases in the courts.

On 2 September, the Government announced a significant package of measures to help borrowers in difficulty, help first time buyers and support the house building industry. Further details of these measures are available on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2008/press_88_08.cfm

the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/950558

and the Department for Work and Pensions website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/aboutus/news/#smi

The Government also provides assistance for homeowners facing financial difficulties through the provision of debt advice. It announced in May 2008 a £10 million package of measures to ensure that financial advice and support is available for borrowers who may need it. Details of the announcement are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2008/press_44_08.cfm

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* grade were employed at HM Revenue and Customs offices (i) Tyler's House, (ii) Dencora Court, (iii) Alexander House, (iv) Portcullis House, (v) Shoeburyness Computer Complex, (vi) Kelting House in Southend-on-Sea, (vii) Kelting House, Basildon and (viii) Regent House, Basildon on (A) 31 March 2006 and (B) 31 March 2008. [222370]

Mr. Timms: The information is as follows.

(i) Tyler's House and (ii) Denora Court are the same building. There is no Kelting House in Southend on Sea, only the one in Basildon. Subject to those provisos, the number of staff of each sex and grade in these buildings on (A) 31 March 2006 and (B) 31 March 2008 are as follows:

(i) and (ii) Tyler's House

(a) Gender

(A) 31 March 2006—167 female, 89 male

(B) 31 March 2008—143 female, 77 male

(b) Grade

(A) 31 March 2006

Grade	*Headcount*
Grade 6	5
Grade 7	6
Band T/Fast Stream	5
Senior Officer	7
Higher Officer	27
Officer	73
Assistant Officer	75
Admin. Assistant	58
Total	256

(B) 31 March 2008

Grade	*Headcount*
Grade 6	3
Grade 7	6
Band T/Fast Stream	5
Senior Officer	5
Higher Officer	25
Officer	61
Assistant Officer	67
Admin. Assistant	48
Total	220

(iii) Alexander House

(a) Gender

(A) 31 March 2006—948 female, 657 male

(B) 31 March 2008—849 female, 615 male

(b) Grade

(A) 31 March 2006

Grade	*Headcount*
SCS	3
Grade 6	5
Grade 7	19
Band T/Fast Stream	1
Senior Officer	200
Higher Officer	327
Officer	340
Assistant Officer	398

(A) 31 March 2006

Grade	Headcount
Admin. Assistant	312
Total	1,605

(B) 31 March 2008

Grade	Headcount
SCS	2
Grade 6	9
Grade 7	22
Band T/Fast Stream	1
Senior Officer	202
Higher Officer	300
Officer	340
Assistant Officer	333
Admin. Assistant	255
Total	1,464

(iii) Portcullis House, Southend

(a) Gender

(A) 31 March 2006—158 female, 132 male

(B) 31 March 2008—148 female, 114 male

(b) Grade

(A) 31 March 2006

Grade	Headcount
Grade 6	3
Grade 7	11
Senior Officer	62
Higher Officer	110
Officer	55
Assistant Officer	48
Admin. Assistant	1
Total	290

(B) 31 March 2008

Grade	Headcount
Grade 6	2
Grade 7	11
Senior Officer	48
Higher Officer	99
Officer	56
Assistant Officer	42
Admin. Assistant	4
Total	262

(v) Shoeburyness Computer Complex

(a) Gender

(A) 31 March 2006—2 female, 4 male

(B) 31 March 2008—1 female, 2 male

(b) Grade

(A) 31 March 2006

Grade	Headcount
Senior Officer	2
Higher Officer	1
Officer	2
Admin. Assistant	1
Total	6

(B) 31 March 2008

Grade	Headcount
Senior Officer	1
Higher Officer	1
Officer	1
Total	3

(vi) and (vii) Kelting House, Basildon

(a) Gender

(A) 31 March 2006—29 female, 3 male

(B) 31 March 2008—23 female, 2 male

(b) Grade

(A) 31 March 2006

Grade	Headcount
Senior Officer	1
Higher Officer	5
Officer	6
Assistant Officer	12
Admin. Assistant	8
Total	32

(B) 31 March 2008

Grade	Headcount
Senior Officer	1
Higher Officer	4
Officer	4
Assistant Officer	10
Admin. Assistant	6
Total	25

(viii) Regent House, Basildon

(a) Gender

(A) 31 March 2006—10 female, 11 male

(B) 31 March 2008—8 female, 10 male

(b) Grade

(A) 31 March 2006

Grade	Headcount
SCS	1
Grade 7	1
Higher Officer	12
Officer	4
Assistant Officer	2
Admin. Assistant	1
Total	21

(B) 31 March 2008

Grade	Headcount
SCS	1
Grade 7	1
Higher Officer	11
Officer	3
Assistant Officer	1
Admin. Assistant	1
Total	18

Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of which of his Department's public service agreements rural proofing of departmental policies is stipulated. [230745]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury leads on one cross-Government Public Service Agreement (PSA) for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR2007) period:

PSA9—Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating child poverty.

HM Treasury has signed up as a formal delivery partner for the following PSAs:

PSA 1—Raise the productivity of the UK economy (led by BERR);

PSA 6—Deliver the conditions for business success in the UK (led by BERR);

PSA 7—Improve the economic performance of all English regions and reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions (led by BERR);

PSA 8—Maximise employment opportunity for all (led by DWP);

PSA 27—Lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change (led by DEFRA); and

PSA29—Reduce poverty in poorer countries through quicker progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (led by DFID).

It is a requirement for all new policies and programmes to be subject to an impact assessment which includes rural proofing.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coal: Prices

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average price of coal for domestic heating use in each of the last five years. [228124]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* DECC does not hold data on coal prices paid by domestic consumers. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes the Retail Price Index (RPI) which has a coal price index. RPI data for the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Index number 1990=100 current prices	*Percentage change on previous year*
2003	144.2	—
2004	151.7	5.2
2005	167.1	10.2
2006	179.6	7.5
2007	192.5	7.2

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will provide assistance to *(a)* consumers and *(b)* local distributors of coal for domestic use to manage recent cost increases. [228810]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have no plans to provide specific assistance to these groups. In terms of consumers, however, the Government already have a range of measures in place to help the most vulnerable with their energy costs, and we recently launched further initiatives. The new Home Energy Saving Programme announced on 11 September includes a £74 million increase to the budget for Warm Front over the next two years (the Government scheme in England, offering insulation, heating and energy efficiency measures to low income and pensioner households on eligible benefits); an increase in cold weather payments this winter from £8.50 to £25 a week; more help with energy efficiency measures and a one-off payment for this winter of £50 to over-60s and £100 to over-80s as part of Government's winter fuel payment.

Departmental Manpower

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff work in his Department's strategy team on a *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount basis; and what the annual average salary of such staff is. [231255]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not have a central strategy team yet. As part of the process of setting up the Department, we will be looking at what strategy support for the Department is necessary and will take a decision on the size of the team on that basis.

Natural Gas: Storage

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what gas storage facilities he expects to be constructed to provide the extra 13.8 billion cubic metres of storage, referred to in the Government's response to the Eleventh Report of the Business and Enterprise Committee on Energy prices, fuel poverty and Ofgem, HC293-1; and what the *(a)* size and *(b)* location of each facility will be. [228022]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The figures to which the hon. Member refers were based on information in National Grid's "Gas Transportation Ten Year Statement 2007", Table 4.5D ("TYS"), available at the following website:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/F085FC328C534999AF8880388A29AE2C/22103/TYS2007.pdf

That document includes details of project sizes and locations. The small changes in the Government's reply to the BERR Committee's Q.12, by comparison with the TYS, reflect my Department's assessment of the impact of developments since the TYS was finalised last year.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to be able to publish the findings of the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study. [231153]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Subject to internal review, we plan to publish interim findings early in the new year and a final report in the first half of 2010, both for public consultation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish a short-list of options for a Severn tidal power scheme; how many options he expects to shortlist; and what factors he will take into account in drawing up that short-list. [231154]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Subject to internal review we expect to publish for public consultation in the new year a recommended shortlist of options, together with the interim findings of the feasibility study and the proposed scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of tidal power development in the Severn Estuary. An assessment framework has been prepared which will also be published. This sets assessment criteria of: feasibility, technical risk; cost and amount of energy produced; affordability and value for money; impact on the energy market and security of energy supply; and environmental and regional impact.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from local businesses and employers in *(a)* the South West and *(b)* South Wales on the impact of a Severn Barrage on the local economy. [231155]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of Government's study looking at the feasibility of a tidal power scheme in the Severn estuary DTZ in collaboration with MDS Transmodal and Arthur D. Little have been commissioned to undertake an initial assessment of the potential economic impact of a tidal power scheme on the Welsh and South West of England economies.

Information has separately been sought from all those ports in the South West and Wales likely to be directly impacted by a tidal power scheme in the estuary. Replies have been received from; Bristol Port Co., Milford Haven Port Authority, Gloucester Harbour Trustees, Environment Agency (Lydney Harbour), Neath Harbour Commissioners, Associated British Ports, Sharpness Dock and British Waterways (Sharpness).

In addition, as an early part of the strategic environmental assessment process, a Call for Information was issued in May 2008. This invited interested parties to submit comments or information that could contribute to the assessment. This yielded responses from the Ports Industry, Shooting and Angling bodies, and Marine Aggregates Producers.

Business representatives also participate in our various feasibility study stakeholder groups. The feasibility study regional forum meetings are for representatives from local government and representatives of the local environmental and business community. Membership includes representatives from the South West Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses and Confederation of British Industry in the South West and Wales.The Bristol Port Company, the Association of British Ports, West of England Strategic Economic Partnership, the Crown Estate, the Institute of Directors and GWE Business West are also members. The Steering Group for the Strategic Environmental Assessment—a major part of the feasibility study—includes a business representative and also representatives of the ports. Regional business issues are also raised through MPs attending the feasibility study parliamentary forum.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the members are of *(a)* the Project Board overseeing the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study and *(b)* the Ministerial Group to which the Project Board reports. [231157]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Project Board is made up of senior officials from: DECC; BERR; Cabinet Office; CLG; DEFRA; DFT; HMT; Wales Office; Welsh Assembly Government; the South West Regional Development Agency; and the Government Office for the South West. In addition, there are non-executive members from the University of Cambridge Centre for Sustainable Development; the Sustainable Development Commission; and Partnerships UK.

The Ministerial Group to which the Project Board reports consists of Secretary of States from: DECC, BERR, CLG, DEFRA, DFT, and Wales Office, together with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Minister for the South West, the Welsh First Minister, and the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the remit is of the Technical and Engineering Expert Panel appointed to provide advice to the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study team; how its members were selected; and when the panel's advice and reports will be published. [231158]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Expert Panel has been appointed to peer review the technical outputs of the Feasibility Study and to provide it with independent engineering advice. The members were selected following consultation with the Royal Academy of Engineering and other professional engineering bodies. The panel's advice will be taken into account in the final versions of the technical reports, the first of which will inform the shortlist of schemes on which we aim to consult early in 2009.

Solar Power

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential for development of solar photovoltaic energy in the UK. [226129]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change, formerly BERR, as part of a consortium, commissioned research on the growth potential for microgeneration in England, Scotland and Wales, including the potential contribution it could make towards the 2020 renewable energy targets. It found that high policy support would deliver a total of 6.7 TWh renewable electricity at a cumulative subsidy cost of £5.7 billion, of which annual generation for PV in 2020 could be 1.17 TWh.

A further study of PV and wind turbines in the existing non-domestic building stock suggested that a high policy support scenario could result in annual generation of 12.5 TWh for solar PV at a cumulative subsidy cost of £17.9 billion by 2020.

The report can be viewed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/index.html

The Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation closed for responses on 26 September. In formulating our final strategy, we will be considering the contribution needed to meet our targets from different technologies.

Water Power

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans the Government has to promote the commercial development of wave and tidal stream technology. [230836]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are helping to meet the challenge of developing and commercialising wave and tidal stream technology and have put in place the most comprehensive package of support measure for marine energy anywhere in the world. Since 2000 over £100 million has been committed.

The package of support measures we have put in place, includes the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's (EPSRC) Supergen Marine programme, Carbon Trust funding, research funding from the Technology Strategy Board and the Energy Technologies Institute.

DECC's £50 million Marine Renewables Deployment Fund provides a package of measures central to which is a £42 million 'Wave and Tidal Stream Energy Demonstration Scheme'. We also support the European Marine Energy Centre wave and tidal stream test site in Orkney and have offered £4.5million support to the proposed £28 million Wave Hub, a project that will provide the infrastructure for demonstration of commercial wave farms, off the Cornish coast.

The aforementioned demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to supporting the development of this sector from R and D towards the eventual commercialisation of wave and tidal stream technology.

In addition, through the Energy Bill the Government are banding the renewables obligation to provide additional support to foster the development of these emerging technologies; this would double the incentive available to the marine sector.

The Government are also considering the responses to the recent UK Renewable Energy Strategy consultation, to see whether further measures need to be adopted to promote the commercial development of wave and tidal stream technology.

Wind Power: Planning

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average length of time between the submission of a planning application for an onshore wind farm and the grant of consent was in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what plans his Department has to reduce this figure in respect of future applications. [229980]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

This summer's consultation on the Government's Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) notes that the time taken by local authorities in England to reach decisions on wind farms in 2007 was around 14 months on average. In 2007 there was one decision in England made under S36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and this took 36 months. The RES sets out the wide-ranging reforms of the planning system being taken forward by Government to enable more efficient and timely decision-making. The RES also set out and invited views on a range of potential additional measures to support onshore renewable development.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231446]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has lost the following equipment in the last 12 months:

	Number
Blackberry	4
Mobile phone	3
Floppy disk drive unit	1
Memory stick	2

The data held on the mobile phones and memory stick is the only data that has been lost. The e-mails held on Blackberrys are deleted remotely as soon as they are reported missing. The memory sticks held a small number of files and there are no reports that this included sensitive or personal data.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221478]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has monthly meetings with its mail room service provider to review mail room costs and identify opportunities for efficiency savings.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* transcripts and recordings, *(b)* fees to the Newspaper Licensing Authority and *(c)* analysis of press coverage in each of the last three years. [224842]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows:

Recordings

The Department pays an annual subscription charge to the Media Monitoring Unit (this is part of the Central Office of Information, previously part of the Cabinet Office) which includes recordings.

Subscription charges paid by the Department to the Media Monitoring Unit in each of the last three years are as follows:

	Subscription charges to the Media Monitoring Unit (Cost per annum including VAT) (£)
2005-06	34,662.50
2006-07	35,426.25
2007-08	40,537.50

Transcripts

Transcript charges paid by the Department in each of the last three years are as follows:

	Transcript charges (Cost per annum including VAT) (£)
2005-06	4,436.81
2006-07	5,796.40
2007-08	5,077.88

National Licensing Authority

Fees to the National Licensing Authority are twofold; a direct annual charge and an indirect monthly payment via our press cuttings providers, EDS Media.

Charges paid by the Department to the National Licensing Authority over the last three years are as follows:

	Cost per annum excluding VAT (£)	
	Subscription charge to the National Licensing Authority	*Charges paid indirectly to the National Licensing Authority via EDS Media*
2005-06	24,330.18	12,514.13
2006-07	49,765.18	13,765.96
2007-08	41,733.35	16,378.47

Analysis

The Department commissioned analysis of press coverage in 2005-06 at a cost of £10,056.69 excluding VAT. No such analysis was conducted in 2006-07 or 2007-08.

Information for 2008-09 has not been included as the current year's expenditure has not yet been audited.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221348]

Barbara Follett: The Department regularly engages in dialogue with a range of relevant stakeholders, who may include members of the public, representatives from our non-departmental public bodies and other interested parties or individuals within our sectors.

The Department has held no formal, planned activity in the last two years specifically defined as a "listening exercise". The Department held a series of public engagement events which could be defined as "public forums" to discuss the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, details for which are as follows:

Public forums

"London 2012: Ask the team" question time events

(i) Purpose:

A series of public engagement events held round the UK in partnership with London 2012 to give stakeholders and members of the public the opportunity to ask questions about the Games and how they can get involved.

(ii) Costs (excl VAT):

Birmingham, 25 June 2007: £36,478

London, 11 October 2007: £26,962

Plymouth, 13 March 2008: £18,799

Belfast, 25 June 2008: 17,750

(iii) Contractor:

Central Office of Information (COI)

(iv) Amount paid to contractor:

The aforementioned amounts listed were paid to COI

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) the agency sponsored by his Department in each year since 2001. [228940]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department holds records from 2006. These are not split between lost and stolen. The Royal Parks Agency holds records from 2004.

The number of staff security passes that have been reported as lost or stolen are as follows:

	DCMS	*Royal Parks Agency*	
	Lost/stolen	*Lost*	*Stolen*
2004	n/a	6	0
2005	n/a	6	1
2006	31	7	9
2007	9	8	0
2008	3	6	3

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229083]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The companies and amount spent on temporary staff are listed as follows. Information prior to 2004 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£

Supplier	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Adecco	217,233.72	453,499.54	488,050.84	54,522.63
Poolia Specialist Recruitment	106,107.84	47,714.39	26,453.76	0.00
Josephine Sammons	50,420.96	99,876.23	127,485.25	311,920.40
Venn Group	0.00	44,907.83	6,474.40	15,114.26
Morgan Law	50,290.00	36,895.00	0.00	0.00
Marks Sattin	7,226.25	26,709.54	0.00	19,730.47
Reed Personnel Services	0.00	38,826.75	0.00	18,499.44
TFPL Ltd.	6,319.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
Robert Walters Operations Ltd.	0.00	32,890.27	36,348.36	36,740.10
Goodman Masson Recruitment Services	0.00	0.00	1,837.71	23,167.21
Hayes	13,824.64	0.00	0.00	0.00
Brook Street	52,405.67	0.00	0.00	0.00

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which recruitment agencies *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have used in the last three years; and how much was paid to each of these recruitment agencies in each year. [230946]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department and its agency have used the following temporary and permanent recruitment agencies in the past three years.

£

DCMS supplier	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Adecco	217,233.72	453,499.54	488,050.84
Poolia Specialist Recruitment	106,107.84	47,714.39	26,453.76
Josephine Sammons	50,420.96	99,876.23	127,485.25
Morgan Law	50,290.00	36,895.00	0.00
Goodman Masson Recruitment Services	0.00	0.00	1,837.71
Hayes	13,824.64	0.00	0.00

DCMS supplier	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	£ *2005-06*
Brook Street	52,405.67	0.00	0.00
Taylor Bennett	28,752.25	0.00	0.00
Odgers Ray and Berndtson	133,031.16	264,808.98	33,709.24
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	44,769.38	7,050.00	0.00
Whitehead Mann Ltd.	0.00	164,368.02	0.00

Royal Parks (agency) supplier	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	£ *2005-06*
Hays Accountancy	262,821.21	189,412.66	158,385.79
Judd Farris Ltd.	1,550.65	92,883.95	0.00
Michael Page	43,488.41	0.00	0.00
Morgan Hunt	9,851.81	0.00	0.00
Reed Employment	39,095.96	37,288.85	0.00
Select Financial Ltd.	9,693.75	0.00	0.00
The Sports Web	25,841.45	27,468.32	12,570.49
Stopgap Ltd.	4,882.92	15,089.00	28,291.89
Sue Hill	20,875.15	38,548.57	0.00

Note:
Many of the recruitments relate to non-departmental public bodies chairs and chief executives. They do not all relate to DCMS staff.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration would be given to a reasonable offer from a third party to purchase the Tote. [230993]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The Government appreciate that a number of potential purchasers may be disappointed that the opportunity to buy the Tote is not available for the time being, but given the need for an open, transparent and accountable sale process, they will not be following up any offers they receive now that a decision has been taken to retain the Tote in public ownership.

National Lottery

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what total balance was held by each of the lottery distributors on the latest date for which figures are available. [230888]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows.

Lottery distributing body	*Balance at 30 September 2008 (rounded to nearest £000)*
Arts Council England	141,576,000
UK Film Council	42,989,000
Arts Council Northern Ireland	17,517,000
Scottish Arts Council	26,899,000
Arts Council Wales	10,668,000
Scottish Screen	4,458,000
Heritage Lottery Fund	487,336,000
Sport England	204,839,000
Sport Northern Ireland	19,845,000
Sport Scotland	51,050,000
UK Sport	13,922,000
Sports Council Wales	10,765,000
Big Lottery Fund	560,420,000
Olympic Lottery Distributor	16,956,000

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was received by each of the National Lottery good causes in each year since 1995-96, expressed in 2008-09 prices. [230486]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The following tables use 2007-08 prices, which are the latest available. All figures include investment income.

Sport good cause

	Lottery income cash	£000 *At 2007-08 prices*
1994-95	58,688	81,634
1995-96	306,580	414,449
1996-97	316,730	412,903
1997-98	363,280	461,478
1998-99	302,742	376,563
1999-2000	276,000	336,684
2000-01	294,821	354,988
2001-02	301,776	355,436
2002-03	258,090	294,489
2003-04	227,294	252,162
2004-05	239,616	258,795
2005-06	244,000	258,242
2006-07	213,132	219,656
2007-08[1]	217,040	217,040

Arts good cause

	Lottery income cash	£000 *At 2007-08 prices*
1994-95	58,693	81,641
1995-96	306,475	414,306
1996-97	314,924	410,549
1997-98	353,541	449,106
1998-99	281,714	350,408
1999-2000	264,733	322,940
2000-01	277,321	333,917
2001-02	295,442	347,976
2002-03	255,701	291,763
2003-04	229,020	254,077
2004-05	241,062	260,357
2005-06	245,059	259,363
2006-07	212,604	219,112
2007-08[1]	217,040	217,040

Heritage good cause

	Lottery income cash	£000 *At 2007-08 prices*
1994-95	58,691	81,637
1995-96	305,869	413,487
1996-97	316,623	412,764
1997-98	365,747	464,612
1998-99	310,209	385,851
1999-2000	291,820	355,982
2000-01	316,085	380,591
2001-02	320,324	377,282
2002-03	290,925	331,955
2003-04	246,318	273,268
2004-05	266,275	287,588
2005-06	270,119	285,886

Heritage good cause

£000

	Lottery income cash	At 2007-08 prices
2006-07	231,040	238,113
2007-08[1]	217,043	217,043

Millennium good cause

£000

	Lottery income cash	At 2007-08 prices
1994-95	58,693	81,641
1995-96	307,294	415,413
1996-97	321,055	418,542
1997-98	398,213	505,854
1998-99	392,037	487,632
1999-2000	353,386	431,085
2000-01	342,197	412,032
2001-02	139,705	164,547
2002-03	21,381	24,396
2003-04	6,436	7,140
2004-05	6,081	6,568
2005-06	3,392	3,590
2006-07	1,602	1,651
2007-08	—	—

Health, education, charities and environment good cause

£000

	Lottery income cash	At 2007-08 prices
1994-95	58,703	81,654
1995-96	307,078	415,122
1996-97	316,691	412,853
1997-98	469,177	596,000
1998-99	629,719	783,272
1999-2000	549,594	670,433
2000-01	532,112	640,705
2001-02	760,617	895,866
2002-03	763,021	870,631
2003-04	681,321	755,864
2004-05	717,377	774,797
2005-06	728,425	770,942
2006-07	628,905	648,155
2007-08[1]	651,124	651,124

Olympic good cause

£000

	Lottery income cash	At 2007-08 prices
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	16,486	17,829
2006-07	114,952	118,471
2007-08	150,671	150,671

[1] Sourced from draft NLDF 2007-08 Accounts.

Olympic Games 2012: Cultural Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role heritage will play in his Department's plans for an Olympic legacy; and if he will make a statement. [225291]

Barbara Follett: Heritage plays a significant role in plans for the Olympic and Paralympic games and the Olympic legacy. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment, English Heritage has had a direct involvement in the Olympics construction programme through its statutory responsibilities in planning and archaeology. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), the Government's statutory adviser on architecture and the built environment, is also a key player in the promotion of well designed, sustainable facilities that make best use of existing built assets where appropriate.

As part of the build process for the Olympic Park, the waterways adjacent to and through it are being repaired and renovated. River wells are being repaired and soft river edges, reseeded with indigenous plants, are being re-established.

All archaeological finds have been recorded and the artefacts are being held by the Museum of London for public viewing. The Olympic Programme is also financing two architectural reports on the history of the Olympic Park which will cover a thousand years of its history, as well as giving a more recent picture of how it has changed in modern times.

The Cultural Olympiad provides an opportunity for all sorts of cultural organisations to engage in Olympic legacy. The heritage sector has already chosen to become involved, and many organisations took part in the Olympic Handover Celebrations in August and the Open Weekend in September which celebrated the launch of the Cultural Olympiad. Organisations from the heritage sector are also involved in the development of the major Cultural Olympiad project, Discovering Places. This programme introduces a new generation to the hidden places and spaces of the UK.

There are also opportunities for interested heritage organisations to get involved in the UK wide festival, part of the Cultural Olympiad.

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230654]

Barbara Follett: No documents have been submitted for approval for Crystal Mark status.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231115]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No documents have been submitted for approval for Crystal Mark status.

Remembrance Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was raised from the sale of poppies in his Department for Remembrance Sunday in each of the last five years. [227737]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has sold poppies for Remembrance Sunday in its offices in each of the last five years. The Department does not have a record of how much was raised from the sale of poppies.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what tourism growth target his Department has set for the period 2008 to 2011; and if he will make a statement. [231353]

Barbara Follett: The current published ambition of achieving £100 billion turnover by 2010 was agreed with the industry, the regional development agencies and the Local Government Association in 2004.

The publication of VisitBritain's strategic review in late 2008/early 2009 will provide an opportunity to examine the need for a new UK growth target.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Banks: Competition

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent assessment is of levels of competition within the banking sector. [229447]

Mr. Thomas: The UK's independent competition authorities (the Office of Fair Trading and the Competition Commission) are responsible for promoting effective competition in markets, tackling anti-competitive behaviour and examining markets that may not be working well for consumers. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) also has statutory responsibilities within the banking sector which are about maintaining confidence in the financial system, promoting public awareness and understanding of the financial system, securing greater consumer protection and reducing financial crime.

Full details of all investigations conducted by the competition authorities can be found on their respective websites. Within the banking and financial sector, the most recent investigations conducted by the authorities are as follows:

> The Office of Fair Trading investigation into the market for personal current accounts in the UK. Findings were published on 16 July 2008 and can be found at
>
> http://www.oft.gov.uk/news/press/2008/84-08:
>
> The Competition Commission investigation into banking services provided by clearing banks to small and medium sized enterprises. Final decisions and areas for further work for the Office of Fair Trading were published on 21 December 2007 and can be found at
>
> http://www.competition-commission.org.uk/press_rel/2007/dec/pdf/68-07.pdf:
>
> The Competition Commission investigation into store credit card services. Final decisions were published on 7 March 2006 and can be found at
>
> http://www.competition-commission.org.uk/rep_pub/reports/2006/509storecards.htm:
>
> The Competition Commission investigation into Northern Irish Personal Banking. Final decisions were published on 15 May 2007 and can be found at
>
> http://www.competition-commission.org.uk/rep_pub/reports/2007/527banking.htm.

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what change there has been to his Department's budget to reflect the movement of responsibilities to the Department of Energy and Climate Change. [230624]

Mr. McFadden: The Machinery of Government changes of 3 October 2008 announced the creation of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, formed from the Energy Group located in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Climate Change Group located in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will transfer their budgets for Energy and Climate Change respectively to the new Department, based on the settlements agreed in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The annual budgets are currently being determined with HM Treasury engaged in the process. The agreed budget figures will be published in the Spring Supplementary Estimates in February 2009.

Departmental Secretarial Staff

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department provides a separate diary secretary to *(a)* each Minister of State and *(b)* each Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. [230927]

Mr. McFadden: Every Minister of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State is provided with their own diary secretary except that in the case of Ministers shared with another Department agreement is reached about which Department should provide the diary secretary as it would lead to confusion if there were two.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what official visits abroad he plans to make in 2009. [229364]

Mr. McFadden: Overseas travel plans for 2009 are not finalised at this time.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226816]

Mr. Thomas: As at 20 October 2008, the Department had answered 591 named day questions, of which 144 were answered on the due date. Of those answers receiving a "holding" reply, just under 40 per cent. received a substantive reply within two sitting days of the specified date. The Department is considering ways to improve its performance on answering named day questions.

Exports: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many consignments of goods were exported from the UK in each of the last three years to *(a)* Israel and *(b)* the occupied Palestinian territories. [229928]

Mr. Thomas: Numbers of consignments are not available. Other information includes

(a) The value of goods exported to Israel amounted to £1.4 billion in 2005, £1.3 billion in 2006 and £1.2 billion in 2007. For exports where weight was recorded, the annual amounts were 381, 448 and 222 thousand tonnes respectively.

(b) The value of goods exported to the Occupied Palestinian Territories amounted to £2.1 million in 2005, £1.1 million in 2006 and £0.9 million in 2007. For exports where weight was recorded, the annual amounts were 602, 234 and 218 tonnes respectively.

Fisheries: Compensation

Miss Begg: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will be in a position to publish the review of the Icelandic Trawlermen Compensation Scheme as promised in March 2007 in line with the findings of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report. [231013]

Mr. McFadden: I hope to make a statement on the trawlermen scheme shortly.

Flexible Working

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many refusals of requests for flexible working by *(a)* (i) mothers and (ii) fathers in each year since 2003 and *(b)* carers in 2007 were taken to employment tribunals. [216366]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible to give a breakdown by mother, father or carer, or the number of claims on the grounds of refusal of request for flexible working, as this would incur a disproportionate cost.

Maternity Leave

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what analysis he has made of changes in the length of maternity leave taken over the last 10 years; and what future trends in such leave he anticipates. [228820]

Mr. McFadden: In the last 10 years three surveys on maternity and paternity rights have been produced by my Department and the Department for Work and Pensions. These publications, which include a survey on the length of maternity leave taken, can be found at:

1. Maternity rights and mothers' employment decisions

(http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep496.pdf)

2. Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits: Survey of Parents 2005

(http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file27446.pdf)

3. Maternity and Paternity Rights in Britain 2002: survey of parents

(http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/ih2003-2004/IH131.pdf).

Future trends in maternity leave have not been forecasted.

Postal Services

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office boxes have been closed in the last 12 months; how many are expected to be closed in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [230364]

Mr. McFadden: The provision of post office boxes is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to give a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many powers of entry have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* abolished by legislation introduced by his Department since 1997. [228042]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Home Department on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 452W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Debts

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the level of *(a)* public and *(b)* private debt was in each year since 1979 expressed (i) in pounds sterling and (ii) as a percentage of gross domestic product. [229987]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested fails within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the level of (a) public debt and (b) private debt was in each year since 1979 expressed (i) in pounds sterling and (ii) as a percentage of the UK's gross domestic product. (229987)

The table below shows the total financial liabilities of (a) the combined household and non profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sector (examples of institutions included within the NPISH sector are: charities; trade unions; universities; churches and political parties) and (b) the public sector which, is the central government, local government and public corporations sectors combined, in (i) pounds sterling and (ii) as a percentage of the UK's gross domestic product (GDP). Data for the household and NPISH sector are only available back to 1987. The data provided ar[illegible]onsistent with the National Accounts published on 30 September 2008.

	Total financial liabilities of the household and NPISH sector (£ billion)	*Total financial liabilities of the household and NPISH sector as a percentage of GDP*	*Total financial liabilities of the public sector (£ billion)*	*Total financial liabilities of the public sector as a percentage of GDP*
1979	—	—	158	79.2
1980	—	—	178	76.4
1981	—	—	183	71.5
1982	—	—	210	74.6
1983	—	—	230	74.8
1984	—	—	242	73.2
1985	—	—	257	71.1
1986	—	—	272	70.0
1987	270	63.0	364	84.8
1988	323	67.6	382	79.9
1989	372	70,7	383	72.9
1990	418	73.3	370	64.8
1991	450	75.1	376	62.9
1992	469	75.3	413	66.4
1993	486	74.2	488	74.5
1994	508	73.3	487	70.3
1995	532	72.6	538	73.4
1996	552	70.6	560	71.6
1997	589	70.9	602	72.5
1998	628	71.4	634	72.1
1999	677	72.9	608	65.5
2000	734	75.2	633	64.8
2001	810	79.3	610	59.7
2002	923	85.8	649	60.3
2003	1,050	92.1	678	59.4
2004	1,185	98.7	752	62.6
2005	1,257	100.3	834	66.6
2006	1,416	107.1	858	64.9
2007	1,539	109.8	907	64.7

Source:
United Kingdom Economic Accounts
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 1186W, on departmental procurement, if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods or services to the Cabinet Office in 2007-08, derived from purchase order information held in the Department's electronic database. [217334]

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods or services to the Cabinet Office in 2007-08, from the purchase order data held in the departmental financial system. [223010]

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [221975]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not recorded in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229143]

Mr. Watson: The Department's HR records do not include information on routes of entry into the civil service. To collect this information would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Over the past five years the Department has recruited, on average, a total of 4-5 civil servants per year through the fast stream.

Statistics on intake into the fast stream as a whole are published annually at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/faststream

Copies are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 June 2008, *Official Report,* columns 25-26WS, on data handling procedures, how many Government *(a)* Departments and *(b)* agencies store data outside the UK; and how many individuals' data are stored in this way. [217221]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the data handling report published on 25 June 2008, *Official Report,* columns 25-26WS, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Data stored by Departments or agencies, whether in the UK or overseas, must be afforded the same level of protection as laid out in the new arrangements and adhere to UK data protection legislation.

The total number of Government Departments and agencies storing data outside the UK is not held centrally.

Immigrants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many immigrants to the UK from *(a)* other EU member states, *(b)* Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, *(c)* African countries, *(d)* the Caribbean countries and *(e)* other countries there were in each year since 1979. [229985]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning how many immigrants to the UK from *(a)* EU member states, *(b)* Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, *(c)* African countries, *(d)* the Caribbean and *(e)* other countries there were each year since 1979. (229985)

Table 1, attached, gives an estimate of immigration to the UK from these countries of last residence between 1979 and 2006. This table is based solely on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), so excludes immigrants not covered by the IPS such as asylum seekers, people whose intentions change with respect to their length of stay in the UK and those from the Republic of Ireland.

Immigration estimates to the UK from EU member states, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, African countries, the Caribbean and other countries, 1979 to 2006

	Total	*EU25*	*Pakistan, India, Bangladesh*	*African countries*	*Caribbean*	*Other countries*
1979	195	32	32	32	5	94
1980	173	34	25	18	5	92
1981	153	27	27	17	3	79
1982	201	59	28	37	2	75
1983	202	37	24	40	5	97
1984	201	47	24	36	2	92
1985	232	66	22	35	3	107
1986	250	76	25	35	5	110
1987	211	58	22	21	3	107
1988	216	56	19	21	3	116
1989	250	61	25	27	3	135
1990	267	71	21	28	7	139
1991	255	80	21	30	3	121
1992	207	76	15	19	2	95
1993	204	65	18	18	2	101
1994	243	87	14	21	1	120
1995	235	77	14	15	2	128
1996	261	91	19	22	3	126
1997	273	99	23	23	3	124
1998	318	100	16	36	4	163
1999	354	97	25	48	5	179
2000	359	95	29	48	2	189
2001	372	88	36	46	3	198
2002	386	86	32	56	4	208
2003	427	107	44	62	4	210
2004	518	126	82	85	6	220
2005	496	150	79	63	1	203
2006	529	174	94	48	3	211

Note:

1. Based on data from the International Passenger Survey. Excludes adjustments (1) those whose intended length of stay changes so that their migrant status changes; (2) asylum seekers and their dependants not identified by the IPS; and (3) flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
2. Figures have been rounded independently and may not add to totals.
3. European Union 25 (EU25) consists of the EU15 member states: Austria, Belgium. Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain. Sweden and the United Kingdom. the EUA8, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia; and Malta and Cyprus.

Source.

International Passenger Survey

Young People: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of 16 to 25-year-olds living in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley Borough and *(c)* the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire. [231307]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about the number of 16-25 year olds living in (a) Southampton, (b) Test Valley and (c) the county of Hampshire (231307).

The table below shows the estimated resident population of persons aged 16-25 years for the areas requested for mid-2007, the latest year for which estimates are available.

Mid-year population estimates of persons aged 16-25 years, 2007

Area	*Population (Thousand)*
Southampton	50
Test Valley	12
Hampshire county	149

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Please note that the population estimate for Hampshire county does not include the unitary authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent on personal and community development learning in each year since 2002-03. [230751]

Mr. Simon: Informal adult learning, including personal and community development (PDCL) is highly valued by Government. We have made an unequivocal commitment to sustain its funding, with £210 million available every year until the end of the CSR period for adult safeguarded learning and £153 million for PCDL within this. This year we have also conducted a wide consultation on informal adult learning because we recognise the enormous contribution that this activity makes to the quality of life, health and well-being of individuals, neighbourhoods and wider society. These consultation findings will provide the basis for a new informal adult learning strategy for the 21st century.

Table A shows the spend (in £000) for personal and community development (PCDL) in each year 2002-03 to 2007-08. The table also includes the projected spend from 2008-09 through to the end of the CSR period in 2010-11.

Table A: PCDL spend 2002-03 through to 2010-11

£000

	Statutory Accounts Spend						*Grant letter—planned*		
Programme	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
PCDL	160,813	172,129	172,243	175,192	143,147	165,193	153,000	153,000	153,000
Adult safeguarded learning (as it is now known)—total	193,519	224,786	236,800	228,577	222,004	223,594	210,000	210,000	210,000

Note:

Adult Safeguarded Learning—total, includes PCDL, family literacy, language and numeracy, wider family learning, neighbourhood learning in deprived communities.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* adult safeguarded learning places and *(b)* personal and community development learning places (i) were funded by the Learning and Skills Council in each of the last five years and (ii) will be funded by the Learning and Skills Council in each of the next three years. [230752]

Mr. Simon: Informal adult learning is highly valued by the Government. We have made an unequivocal commitment to sustain its funding, with £210 million available every year until the end of the CSR period. This year we have also conducted a wide consultation on informal adult learning because we recognise the enormous contribution that this activity makes to the quality of life, health and well-being of individuals, neighbourhoods and wider society. These consultation findings will provide the basis for a new informal adult learning strategy for the 21st century.

Table A shows the total number of Adult and Community Learners (now referred to as Adult Safeguarded Learning) from 2002/03 through to 2006/07. These figures are the closest proxy available to what was also termed "Personal and Community Development (PCDL)".

Table A: Adult and Community Learner numbers for 2002/03 to 2006/07

	Adult and Community Learning
2003/04	842,100
2004/05	871,400
2005/06	793,400
2006/07	745,500

Note:
Figures prior to 2003/04 are not available
Source:
Various statistical first releases

Table B shows the total planned number of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded learners numbers for Adult Safeguarded Learning for 2007/08 to 2010/11.

Table B: Planned Adult Safeguarded Learner numbers for 2007/08 to 2010/11

	Adult Safeguarded Learning
2007/08	660,000
2008/09	630,000
2009/10	605,000
2010/11	585,000

Source:
LSC Grant Letter 2008-09

We are currently also working on the LSC Grant Letter and Statement of Priorities for 2009-10, which will set out our investment strategy and associated learner numbers for 2009-10.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many learner places funded by the Learning and Skills Council which would now be classified as development learning were available in each of the five years before 2008-09, broken down by whether the places are *(a)* at or below level 2 or outside the national qualifications framework and *(b)* at or above level 3 of the framework; [230754]

(2) how many learner places funded by the Learning and Skills Council and classified as development learning will be available in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11, broken down by whether the places are *(a)* at or below level 2 or outside the national qualifications framework and *(b)* at or above level 3 of the framework. [230755]

Mr. Simon: Our planned and continuing strategy has been to prioritise funding away from a high number of shorter and low-quality courses towards longer courses that offer people the greatest opportunity to gain employability skills and further progression in learning.

The concept of 'developmental learning' was introduced for the academic year 2008-09. We are able to identify learner numbers at the level of qualification requested. However, owing to the way in which data are collected it is not possible to determine which learners at the lower levels would be now classified as foundation learning tier or developmental learning.

The following table shows adult (aged 19 or over) FE learner numbers funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the five most recent years for which data are available (actual figures for 2007-08 are not yet available).

LSC-funded FE adult learners 2002/03 to 2006/07

	Level 2 and below (million)	*Level 3 and above (000)*
2002/03	2.2	550
2003/04	2.3	536
2004/05	2.4	544
2005/06	2.1	479
2006/07	1.5	424

Note:
Learners whose level was not reported are not included here.
Source:
LSC Statistical First Release.

Forecast LSC-funded adult learners in developmental learning for the academic years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are given in the following table; figures for 2007/08 are not available.

LSC-funded learners through adult learner and employer responsive routes

	Developmental learning (000)
2008/09	508
2009/10	219
2010/11	116

Source:
LSC Grant Letter 2008/09.

These figures are for planning purposes only. It is for FE colleges and providers to determine the mix and balance of courses that they support in line with local priorities and demand. We are currently working on the LSC Grant Letter and Statement of Priorities for 2009-10 which will confirm the investment strategy for 2009-10 and associated learner numbers.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much the Learning and Skills Council spent in each of the last five years before 2008-09 on learning that would now be classified as development learning, broken down by whether the learning was *(a)* at or below level 2 or outside the national qualifications framework and *(b)* at or above level 3 of the framework; [230756]

(2) how much the Learning and Skills Council plans to spend on developmental learning in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11, broken down by whether the learning is *(a)* at or below level 2 or outside the national qualifications framework and *(b)* at or above level 3 of the framework. [230757]

Mr. Simon: Total Government investment in the post-16 further education system has increased by 53 per cent. in real terms from 1997 to 2008. Over the next three years the Department's investment in adult skills is planned to increase from £4.6 billion in 2007-08 to £5.3 billion in 2010-11, a real terms increase of 7 per cent.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Grant Letter for 2008-09 (November, 2007) set out levels of investment in developmental learning over the comprehensive spending review period for planning purposes only. This is shown in the following table.

Planned LSC investment in developmental learning (adult learner and employer responsive route) 2008-09 to 2010-11

	£ million
2008-09	395
2009-10	194
2010-11	106

Source:
LSC Grant Letter 2008/09

While we know that this funding will be directed towards courses falling outside priority areas such as full level 2 qualifications, it is for FE colleges and providers to determine the mix and balance of courses that they support in line with local priorities and demand. It is therefore not possible to project the proportion of this funding that will be spent by level.

Funding for FE colleges and providers is only provided at an overall budget level (i.e. the total budget for learners aged 19 or over on college based FE courses) rather than by level of qualification. In order to estimate spend against developmental learning type course we would need to know the number of learners on this provision. While we have information on the number of learners studying on courses at level 2 and below and level 3 and above, it is not possible to determine within these which would now fall within the developmental learning category and which would fall within for example the foundation learning tier.

We are currently working on the LSC Grant Letter and Statement of Priorities for 2009-10 which will confirm the investment strategy for 2009-10 and associated learner numbers.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of people on programme-led apprenticeships proceeded to employed-status apprenticeships in each year since programme-led apprenticeships began. [230747]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has not previously monitored the number of programme-led apprentices that proceed to employed-status apprenticeships. A field is being introduced to the 2008-09 individualised learner record data collection which will allow us to report this information from autumn 2009.

Employment status is a requirement to achieve a full apprenticeship framework completion. Assessors identify whether a programme-led apprentice has achieved employment status before awarding a framework completion, but they do not routinely share this information with the LSC.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many programme-led apprenticeships there have been in each year since their inception. [230748]

Mr. Simon: This information is not currently available. My officials are currently collating this data and when it is ready, I will write to the hon. Member and place it in the Library.

Apprentices: Redundancy

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprentices were made redundant *(a)* during an apprenticeship and *(b)* shortly after finishing an apprenticeship in each of the last two years. [230749]

Mr. Simon: We do not hold data centrally about the number of apprentices made redundant while they are on an apprenticeship or after they have left. When apprentices do lose their jobs through redundancy, training providers and the Learning and Skills Council will endeavour to find alternative employment or training places. We have recently implemented a matching system for construction apprentices who are at risk of losing their jobs.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226966]

Mr. Simon: In 2007-08 the Secretary of State hosted one official Christmas function for 50 people which cost £665. In addition the Secretary of State plus other Ministers and staff attended the joint carol service held by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Staff attended in their own personal time. No public money was spent on this event.

Departmental divisions do hold Christmas parties for staff to attend, for which these staff must pay. Christmas parties are not paid for out of departmental budgets.

The UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) hosted no Christmas functions with a cost to the public purse in 2007-08. Similarly, UKIPO officials attended no public Christmas functions at a cost to the public purse.

In 2007-08 the National Weights and Measures Laboratory contributed £10 per member of staff towards the Christmas function. This amounted to some £530. Officials attended no other public Christmas functions at a cost to the public purse.

Details of Christmas functions attended and hosted by other Ministers and officials of the Department and any possible resultant costs can be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229165]

Mr. Simon: As far as we are aware, the following lists the projects currently being undertaken by DIUS and its agencies.

Projects	*Expected completion date*	*Estimated cost (£000)*
Directory Services—DIUS	January 2009	80
Website Re-Design—Intellectual Property Office (IPO)	November 2008	664
Office/Exchange 2007—IPO	December 2008	960
Register Maintenance—IPO	January 2010	1,600
Enforcement Database Rebuild—National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML)	November 2008	40.5
Time recording system—NWML	April 2009	24.9
Website Development—NWML	December 2008	12.5
Intranet Development—NWML	December 2008	6

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228414]

Mr. Simon: DIUS is a new Department established in June 2007 substantially from parts of the former DTI and DFES. It procured a unified ICT solution under a seven year agreement commencing 19 November 2007. The cost of the initial set-up and subsequent upgrades in the last three financial years was as follows.

	£000
FY 2006/07	[1]0
FY 2007/08	459
FY 2008/09	[2]110

[1] The Department did not exist

[2] To date

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [228670]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* The budgets for the Department's executive non-departmental public bodies are set out in the following table.

			£ million
Non-departmental public body	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Higher Education Funding Council for England	7,466.7	7,706.3	8,061.0
Student Loans Company	82.3	74.7	77.1
Office for Fair Access	0.5	0.5	0.5
Learning and Skills Council	11,589.0	12,017.0	12,599.0
UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)[1]	69.7	68.1	67.9
Technology Strategy Board	180.0	243.0	253.0
Design Council	6.0	6.0	6.0
Arts and Humanities Research Council	103.5	104.4	108.8
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	427.0	452.6	471.1
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	795.1	814.5	843.5
Economic and Social Research Council	164.9	170.6	177.6
Medical Research Council	605.5	658.5	707.0
Natural Environment Research Council	392.2	408.2	436.0
Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)	623.6	630.3	651.6
Investors in People UK (IIP UK)[2]	6.7	—	—
Quality Improvement Agency (QIA)[3]	1.1	—	—

[1] Includes residual funding for Sector Skills Development Agency in 2007-08.

[2] Funding for IIP UK for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is yet to be announced.

[3] On 1 October 2008, the Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) and the Centre for Excellence in Leadership (CEL) transferred their operations to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS). In March, the Secretary of State sent LSIS a letter announcing a grant of £129 million for 2008-09. This figure has since been raised to £145 million.

Sources:

Departmental Annual Report 2007-08 Annex 9

except Research Councils and STFC: The Allocations of the Science Budget 2008-09 to 2010-11

and IIP UK and QIA: Main Estimate 2008-09

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost to the public purse of his Department was in 2007-08. [228626]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. In 2007-08 the Department spent £17.382 million in resource expenditure and invested £3.123 million in student loans and capital expenditure.

Source:

Resource Accounts 2007-08

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229184]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. Since that time to date, there have been 37 civil servants recruited through the generalist fast stream. The average salary is £27,262.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) agencies sponsored by his Department since its creation. [228917]

Mr. Simon: Since the creation of DIUS, seven security passes have been reported lost by staff in the Department. Two passes for the National Weights and Measures Laboratory building have been reported lost. Records for the UK Intellectual Property Office do not distinguish between passes reported lost and those reissued for other reasons.

No passes have been reported stolen, either in the Department or in the two agencies. However, records are not yet kept of stolen passes for the building that DIUS occupies in London.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which companies have been used by his Department for providing temporary staff since its establishment; and what the value of contracts with each such company was. [229089]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The Department has used two agencies—Reed and Hays—to recruit the majority of temporary staff at a total cost of £208,670.

For a small number of specialist temporary staff, the Department has used other agencies but information on this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Havant of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2219W, on taxis, what information on travel expenditure is collected centrally in his Department. [229274]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' finance system records the following types of travel expenditure:

Air

Rail

Vehicle hire

Taxi

In some cases of claims for travel and subsistence from individuals, the amounts are paid and recorded in total rather than being accounted for under each different type of transport used.

National Vocational Qualifications

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people took level 3 NVQs in childcare in the last three years, broken down by *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* further education college. [229609]

Mr. Simon: The information requested has been place in the Library.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the working age population is educated to NVQ level *(a)* 2 and *(b)* 4; and which 20 local authorities of people so qualified in their working age population. [231508]

Mr. Simon: In the 2007 Annual Population Survey, 68.9 per cent. of the working age adult population in England were qualified to a least an NVQ Level 2 or equivalent and 30.2 per cent. of the working age adult population in England were qualified to a least an NVQ Level 4 or equivalent.

Table 1 shows the 20 local education authorities with the highest proportion of their working age adult population qualified to at least NVQ Level 2 or equivalent standard.

Table 2 shows the 20 local education authorities with the highest proportion of their working age adult population qualified to at least NVQ Level 4 or equivalent standard.

Table 1: The 20 local education authorities in 2007 with the highest proportion of the working age adult population qualified to at least NVQ Level 2 or equivalent

Local education authority	*Percentage of working age population qualified to at least level 2*
England	68.9
City of London	100.0
Richmond Upon Thames	84.7
Wandsworth	83.6
Kingston-Upon-Thames	81.7
Wokingham	80.7
Westminster, City of	79.4
Bath and North East Somerset	78.8
Rutland	78.3
Royal Windsor/Maidenhead	78.2
Kensington and Chelsea	77.9
Camden	77.6
Brighton and Hove	77.5
Trafford	77.3
Surrey	77.3
Hammersmith and Fulham	76.9
Merton	76.5
Gloucestershire	76.2
Bromley	76.0
West Berkshire	75.7
Warwickshire	75.5

Notes:

1. The working age population is defined as males aged 19-64 and females aged 19-59.
2. Local authority is based upon individual's home postcode.
3. People are counted as being qualified to level 2 or above if they have achieved at least 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C, an Intermediate GNVQ, two or three AS levels or an NVQ level 2 or equivalent vocational qualification (or a qualification at level 3 and above).
4. LEA attainment estimates are subject to revision.

Source:

January-December 2007 Annual Population Survey, England

Table 2: The 20 local education authorities in 2007 with the highest proportion of the working age adult population qualified to at least NVQ Level 4 or equivalent

Local education authority	*Percentage of working age population qualified to at least level 4*
England	30.2
City of London	75.4
Richmond Upon Thames	58.7
Wandsworth	57.7
Westminster, City of	55.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	55.0
Camden	52.8
Kensington and Chelsea	51.0
Kingston-Upon-Thames	50.6
Lambeth	48.0
Islington	47.7
Merton	45.8
Haringey	44.4
Southwark	44.4
Wokingham	44.0
Brighton and Hove	43.8
Royal Windsor/Maidenhead	42.1
Barnet	42.1
Ealing	40.7

Table 2: The 20 local education authorities in 2007 with the highest proportion of the working age adult population qualified to at least NVQ Level 4 or equivalent.

Local education authority	*Percentage of working age population qualified to at least level 4*
Surrey	40.2
Hackney	38.7

Notes:

1. The working age population is defined as males aged 19-64 and females aged 19-59.
2. Local authority is based upon individual's home postcode.
3. People are counted as being qualified at level 4 or above if they have achieved a foundation, first or higher degree, an NVQ level 4 or 5, a recognised degree-level professional qualification, an HNC/HND or other higher-level vocational or management qualification, a teaching or nursing qualification, or a diploma in higher education.
4. LEA attainment estimates are subject to revision.

Source:

January-December 2007 Annual Population Survey, England

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227042]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Information on how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel prior to this date is not held by the Department. In 2007-08 the Department spent £14,237 on taxi fares.

The UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) has a contract with a taxi firm. The amounts paid in respect of that contract in the financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07 are as follows:

	UKIPO (£)
2002-03	3,916
2003-04	4,237
2004-05	3,712
2005-06	4,549
2006-07	8,461

The National Weights and Measures Laboratory make payments for taxi fares when reimbursing individual travel claims and estimates that it spends less than £50 per year on taxi fares.

The Department and the UKIPO also make payments for taxi fares when reimbursing individual travel claims, but these are not recorded separately for the years in question.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2008 Annual Report

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration was given to making a written ministerial statement on the publication of her Department's 2008 Annual Report. [229712]

Mr. Khan: None. There is no central requirement for a ministerial statement and it has not been our practice to make one.

Audit Commission: Costs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the running costs of the Audit Commission were in 2007; and what estimate has been made of such costs for 2008. [230307]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly. I will ensure a copy of his letter is placed in the Library of the House.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated October 2008:

Your Parliamentary Question on what the running costs of the Audit Commission were in 2007/08; and what such costs are estimated to be for 2008/09 has been passed to me for reply.

The running costs of the Commission, based on total operating costs, were £216million for 2007/08. The estimate for 2008/09 is £211millon.

The text of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Best Value

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on best value *(a)* inspection subsidies to public corporations and *(b)* interventions in the last year for which figures are available. [230336]

John Healey: The Audit Commission is a public corporation sponsored by Communities and Local Government, it receives grant funding from ourselves and other departments for its inspection work on best value authorities. These amounts are set out annually in the Commission's annual accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. For 2007-08, the Commission received a total of £23.88 million from the Department under this heading.

During the same year, £2,003,924 was paid in capacity building grants directly by the Department to support improvement in poorly performing local authorities.

Buildings: Electronic Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government further to her Department's plans for enabling electronic communication of building control documents, which public bodies other than local authorities *(a)* may and *(b)* will have access to this building control data, in whole or in part. [230874]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Building (Electronic Communications) Order S.I. 2008/2334 was made on 28 August 2008 and laid in Parliament on 4 September 2008. The provisions came into force on 1 October 2008. They simply enable building control bodies and competent persons to implement electronic communication capabilities and are entirely discretionary. As I indicated in my reply of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1024W, they in no way change access rights to building control documents held by local authorities. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) applies to all information (electronic or otherwise), held by local authorities, including building control documents, and FOI requests can be made by public bodies.

Caravans

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister in her Department is responsible for policies related to *(a)* static caravans and *(b)* park homes. [230341]

Mr. Iain Wright: I am the Minister responsible for housing and planning policies within the Department relating to *(a)* static caravans and *(b)* park homes.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment her Department has made of the effects of introducing a community infrastructure levy in the current state of the property market; [230665]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effect of the community infrastructure levy on *(a)* house building rates and *(b)* the viability of brownfield regeneration projects. [230797]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government recognise that these are challenging economic times, but believe it is appropriate for the community infrastructure levy (CIL) to be introduced in due course. The development industry agrees that CIL is the right instrument to put in place for the longer term.

As we made clear in our August policy statement, four particular features of CIL help to ensure it is fit for the full range of economic conditions.

First, local authorities will be able to decide whether the circumstances in their area make the introduction of CIL appropriate and at what level to set the charge. Local authorities will proceed at different speeds in establishing a levy and some may decide not to introduce CIL at all. This means there will not be a 'big bang' introduction of this instrument across the country. Rather its introduction will be gradual and local.

Secondly, if local authorities do decide to proceed with a CIL, they will need to set charges which reflect the economic circumstances of their areas, and will need to subject their CIL proposals to consultation with developers and the local community, and testing by an independent person. Chapter 3 of the August policy statement sets out the Government's proposals for this process.

Thirdly, the Government expect that charges will need to be kept under review and revised if, for example, changes in land values led to charges becoming unviable. The Government will be considering what procedures for revision might look like, and how they can provide for appropriate levels of both flexibility and stakeholder scrutiny; and will work closely with stakeholders on these issues.

Fourthly, the Government propose that charges will be indexed against a measure of inflation, enabling wider change in costs or prices (including deflation) to be automatically reflected in charges. Charging authorities will need to make judgments about how far such automatic responsiveness can accommodate changes in the market; and when a more thorough revision of the charging schedule might be necessary.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the annual net change in revenue to accrue from community infrastructure levy, compared with the revenue accruing from existing section 106 regime. [230883]

Mr. Iain Wright: As the Government set out at paragraph 2.7 of its August policy statement on the community infrastructure levy (CIL), CIL will provide further new resources to support housing growth and the development of local communities. Estimates on CIL's revenue raising potential are heavily dependent on assumptions about the number of planning authorities who choose to implement a CIL and the level at which CIL is set in each area. However, the Government believe that CIL has the potential to raise hundreds of millions of pounds per year of extra funding for infrastructure.

Details of research estimating the value of planning obligations in the year 2005-06 are set out in the report "Valuing Planning Obligations in England: Update Study for 2005-06". The report is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningresearch/researchreports/planningobligationsresearch.

Community Relations

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements local authorities will have to set up a tension monitoring committee or working group. [229638]

Mr. Khan: Tension monitoring is not a mandatory requirement for local authorities. "The Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion contingency planning and tension monitoring", published on 6 May 2008, set a framework which each local authority can use to monitor local issues that may lead to tension and to put plans into operation if a problem is identified. It is the responsibility of each local authority to determine the scope of their tension monitoring and contingency planning.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budgets for *(a)* the Government Office Transformation programme, *(b)* the Community Empowerment Programme Board and *(c)* the Preventing Violent Extremism programme are for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11 and (iv) 2011-12. [231266]

Mr. Khan: There is no separately allocated central budget for GO Transformation. The Regional Co-ordination Unit has a local budget of £288,500 for 2008-09 for projects planned to complete in December 2008. There are no local budgets set for future years.

The overall budget for Preventing Violent Extremism for this comprehensive spending review period, including funds to local authorities through the area based grant (ABG), is £84.5 million. £45 million is paid through the ABG to local authorities and the remaining funding supports projects on preventing violent extremism. For more detail I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today—UIN 231265.

The budgets are set out in the following table.

£ million

Programme	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Community Empowerment	16.0	26.5	31.3
Preventing Violent Extremism	20.5	27.5	36.5
Total	36.5	54.0	67.8

Only set budgets up to 2010-11. Budgets for 2011-12 onwards will be determined in the next spending review.

Compensation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose of the compensation payments set out on page 62 of her Department's latest resource accounts were. [230195]

Mr. Khan: In its 2007-08 resource accounts the Department has taken a provision of £3.8 million against compensation claims by staff and third parties. Most of this amount represents claims made by ex-Property Services Agency employees who have contracted lung disease because of exposure to asbestos.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Valuation Office Agency's targets are for *(a)* elapsed time on council tax reports, *(b)* banding accuracy and *(c)* rateable value loss. [229632]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1786 by the right hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy).

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1987-8W, on council tax, whether local authorities may grant a single person council tax discount on the condition that the householder permits an internal inspection of their property by a local authority representative. [230034]

John Healey: It is for local authorities to administer council tax, within the legislative framework set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992, including the granting of discounts or exemptions.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1419W, on council tax, what guidance *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency, *(b)* the Valuation Tribunal Service and *(c)* the predecessors of her Department have provided on the application of the Limitations Act 1980 to repayments by local billing authorities for council tax bills in cases where there has been an error in the banding of a domestic dwelling. [230149]

John Healey: No guidance has been issued by the Valuation Office Agency, the Valuation Tribunal Service or the predecessors to Communities and Local Government on the application of the Limitation Act 1980 to repayments by local authorities for council tax bills in cases where there has been an error in the banding of a domestic dwelling.

Council Tax: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 112W, on council tax: standards, which data collections outside the National Indicator Set will be *(a)* continued and *(b)* discontinued. [230036]

John Healey: The process of reviewing data collections to identify reductions, which was referred to in the answer I gave the hon. Member on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 112W, is still underway.

Departments have until May 2010 to identify and implement reductions which contribute to the cross-Whitehall 30 per cent. reduction target. Departments will publish annually every December in their Simplification Plans those data items which they have so far identified for discontinuation.

Council Tax: Students

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to implement recommendation 7.5 of the Lyons Inquiry report in relation to student households and council tax. [230188]

John Healey: Following consultation during summer 2007, the Government decided to use the average of counts of student exemptions taken in May and September to calculate projections of council tax base. This came into effect with the first full three-year settlement from 2008-09. I announced the provisional allocations to the House on 6 December 2007. Copies of the consultation paper which at paragraph 20 confirmed our intention to move to using average counts for student exemptions were placed in the Library and the text is available on my Department's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/conpap.pdf

We are continuing to discuss with local government how to best reflect student exemptions in the projections of council tax base for the next three-year settlement.

Council Tax: Tax Yields

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the forecast gross revenue from council tax is in England in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [230339]

John Healey: Details of local authorities' budgeted council tax requirement for 2008-09 are in a Statistical Release that was published on 21 August 2008 and is available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctax089.htm.

Details of local authorities budgeted council tax requirement for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are not yet available.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of private *(a)* sales and *(b)* rental transactions in England are accessible to the Valuation Office Agency through its interface with Rightmove.co.uk plc to assist with council tax revaluations. [230186]

John Healey: None. There is no council tax revaluation taking place.

Councillors

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued on the restriction on councillors from serving as staff on local authorities other than those on which they serve; and whether she plans to amend such guidance. [229568]

John Healey: We have issued no such guidance. In our White paper 'Communities in control: real people, real power', we gave a commitment to amend the legislative framework so that only the most senior and politically sensitive posts would be politically restricted.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* nature of (i) the £136,000 ex gratia payment and (ii) the £286,000 adverse costs payment recorded on page 62 of her Department's most recent resource accounts were. [230319]

Mr. Khan: The two amounts are balance sheet provisions recording an existing liability where there is uncertainty over the amount and/or timing of the payment; they do not record actual payments made. (i) The provision of £136,000 for ex-gratia payments is to cover eight claims against the Planning Inspectorate where liability has acknowledged but value is being negotiated, (ii) the provision of £286,000 for adverse costs is to cover legal costs incurred by the Planning Inspectorate where the final amount is yet to be determined.

Departmental Contracts

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts her Department has with external consultants; what the value of these contracts is in the current financial year, including VAT and disbursements; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value of each contract is. [231324]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The information is set out in the following table.

Contracts with a total value of £7.8 million were let for consultancy work by the central department in the financial year to end-September. Contracts for less than £20,000 in total value are subject to local delegation and may not be listed. In the same period the Department spent £21.3 million on consultancy services excluding VAT. These contracts may have been let in previous periods. The expenditure totals include any approved charges for expenses and disbursements.

Table of consultancy contracts let by DCLG—Year to end September 2008

Vendor Name	*Contract Value*	*Start Date*	*End Date*	*Duration Months*
Acumen consortium	84,640	27 August 2008	30 April 2009	8
Acumen Consortium	9,000	16 July 2008	8 August 2008	1
Addison and associates ltd	42,678	8 September 2008	11 November 2008	2
Addison and Associates Ltd	56,048	30 May 2008	29 August 2008	3
Amqis Consortium	260,582	28 June 2008	31 October 2008	4
Brahm Ltd	18,175	22 September 2008	7 November 2008	2
Business in the Community	68,080	1 October 2008	31 March 2010	18
Certes Computing Ltd	101,375	1 October 2008	31 March 2009	6
Chartered Inst of Housing	86,400	15 July 2008	28 February 2009	7
CIRIA	49,964	2 July 2008	12 February 2008	2
Collective Enterprises Ltd	2,999,648	1 October 2008	30 February 2011	36
Deloitte MCS Ltd	30,000	12 August 2008	30 February 2008	2
Entec UK Ltd	47,410	22 August 2008	30 January 2009	5
Ethnos Research and Consultancy	81,880	8 October 2008	31 December 2009	15
Europe Economics	154,030	11 July 2008	31 March 2010	21
Faith Matters	90,000	24 October 2008	30 April 2009	6
FDS International Ltd	47,303	12 May 2008	30 February 2008	5
Greenstreet berman ltd	102,478	11 April 2008	10 April 2011	36
Greenstreet Berman Ltd	72,837	18 April 2008	31 March 2009	11
Hays Personnel Services	93,000	4 August 2008	31 January 2009	6
Hays Personnel Services	93,000	23 July 2008	31 January 2009	6
Hays Personnel Services	27,000	1 August 2008	31 October 2008	3
Health and Safety Laboratories	99,000	28 July 2008	16 February 2009	7
Heriot-Watt University	88,012	30 May 2008	31 March 2009	10
Idenk Ltd	50,000	23 July 2008	30 February 2008	2
IECR Ltd	73,370	29 April 2008	15 August 2008	4
Improvement and Development Agency	89,000	1 April 2008	31 March 2009	12
Informed Solutions Ltd	500,000	2 April 2008	31 August 2008	5
Intelligent Addressing Ltd	20,300	28 July 2008	31 March 2009	8
Kent University	88,820	16 September 2008	28 February 2009	5

Table of consultancy contracts let by DCLG—Year to end September 2008

Vendor Name	*Contract Value*	*Start Date*	*End Date*	*Duration Months*
Lambert Smith Hampton	11,300	12 June 2008	12 December 2008	6
Land Data CIC	50,000	14 July 2008	30 February 2008	3
Leeds Metropolitan University	21,875	29 August 2008	14 November 2008	3
Market and Opinion Research Int Ltd	66,510	9 September 2008	21 November 2008	2
Mott Macdonald Ltd	45,000	2 October 2008	19 January 2009	4
NERA Economic Consulting	73,849	22 April 2008	15 August 2008	4
OVE ARUP and Partners	53,575	12 August 2008	29 August 2008	1
Oxford Consult Social Inclusion Ltd	57,000	24 July 2008	30 June 2010	23
PA Consulting Services Limited	43,750	2 October 2008	30 November 2008	2
PA Consulting Services Limited	127,305	16 May 2008	10 October 2008	5
PA Consulting Services Limited	82,750	29 July 2008	3 October 2008	2
Partnerships UK plc	579,000	5 May 2008	31 March 2010	19
Progressive Recruitment Ltd	42,000	30 June 2008	5 October 2008	3
Q1 Consulting Ltd	107,400	16 June 2008	15 December 2008	6
Rocket Science UK Ltd	52,085	6 August 2008	3 October 2008	2
Roger Tym and Partners	36,585	14 May 2008	1 July 2008	2
Scott Wilson Ltd	78,705	6 May 2008	31 October 2009	18
Securetest Ltd	14,000	20 May 2008	20 July 2008	2
SERCO	40,814	1 October 2008	31 March 2009	6
Shared Intelligence Ltd	23,960	30 June 2008	27 February 2009	8
Stanton Marris LLP	93,350	1 April 2008	30 June 2008	3
Sustrans	39,997	23 July 2008	16 October 2008	3
Teg Kenyon Limited	25,950	9 June 2008	31 October 2008	5
Veredus Interim MGMT	111,175	23 September 2008	30 February 2009	12
Xantura Limited	89,800	24 July 2008	28 February 2009	7
Xantura Limited	89,820	24 July 2008	31 January 2009	6
Total	7,681,583			

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230212]

Mr. Khan: The sanctions available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences include:

(a) written reprimand,

(b) suspension from duty for a specified period including where appropriate loss of pay (either wholly or in part),

(c) withholding performance related pay increases for a specified period (either wholly or in part),

(d) a ban on promotion, normally for a specified period,

(e) restitution (in whole or in part) by deductions from pay or otherwise for any loss of public funds caused by a breach or breaches of discipline, or for damage to, or theft of, departmental property caused by an employee,

(f) deductions from pay for any period of unauthorised absence from duty,

(g) an arranged move/transfer, or,

(h) dismissal.

In each of the categories above, where disciplinary action has taken place, no more then five occasions have taken place, and so we cannot release this information due to confidentiality issues.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the assessments and reports made by her Department's press officers, or outsourced press monitoring operations, of media coverage of her Department for the last month. [230315]

Mr. Khan: The Communications Directorate monitors media coverage of issues relevant to the Department's agenda on a daily basis and provides short, informal summaries of coverage to Ministers and departmental officials as appropriate. It also subscribes to a number of external newspaper cutting and broadcast monitoring services.

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies it sponsors in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each such contract was. [230226]

Mr. Khan: The following organisations provided media monitoring services to the Department in each of the last three years. The cost of this service by financial year is shown in the relevant column:

£

Organisation	*FY 2005-06*	*FY 2006-07*	*FY 2007-08*	*Total*
Central Office of Information/Media Monitoring Unit (national broadcast media monitoring)	59,125	68,235	112,075	239,435
EDS (National print news media monitoring)	178,547.90	204,181.41	187,153.64	569,882.95
Total by FY	237,672.90	272,416.41	299,228.64	809,317.95

In addition to the aforementioned, the Department had an ongoing service agreement with the Central Office of Information for the provision of a range of regional media services, including regional print/broadcast news media monitoring. A break-down of costs specifically related to media monitoring provided by the COI during this period is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Information about media monitoring services provided to the Department's agencies and the non-departmental public bodies which it sponsors is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Development of English Regions Programme

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects her Department is undertaking through the Development of English Regions programme; and what the budget of each is. [231264]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* There is no Development of the English Regions programme that CLG is aware of or in which CLG undertakes projects.

Eco-towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made, and what legal advice it has commissioned, on the compatibility of her Department's promotion of the eco-town programme and specific sites with its role in the planning process for such sites. [230303]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the event that any planning decisions on eco-towns are referred to the Secretary of State they will be dealt with under the published guidance on planning propriety issues. In line with that guidance we have already made it clear that the Minister for Housing and Planning would not be involved in such decisions.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planned budget for her Department's eco-towns programme is for each of the next three years. [230409]

Mr. Iain Wright: The eco-towns policy has been developed alongside our housing policies. The costs for developing the policy form part of the Department's running costs and are set out in the departmental annual report, "Community, opportunity, prosperity". Future allocations to support infrastructure and local authority expenditure in relation to any of the sites will be drawn from the growth funding made available in CSR07.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the National Policy Statement on eco-towns will be location-specific. [230415]

Mr. Iain Wright: Housing projects will not be consented under the new regime being established under the Planning Bill for the determination of nationally significant infrastructure projects; there will not be a national policy statement on eco-towns.

However we expect to publish shortly a draft eco-towns planning policy statement on the standards that eco-towns will have to meet alongside a sustainability appraisal, which will set out more details about assessing the possible locations.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the whole-programme timetable for the consultations in relation to eco-towns planning and development plans is. [230800]

Mr. Iain Wright: Until decisions on the final shortlist of locations with potential to be an eco-town have been made it is not possible to set out the timetable as it will be dependent on locations, the position with the relevant development plans at these locations and the planning permission process.

Eco-towns: Curborough

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of hectares of the proposed Curborough eco-town will be on greenfield land. [230885]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) gave him on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1159W, in which she confirmed that the Curborough eco-town proposal had been withdrawn from the eco-towns programme. The location is therefore being assessed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), and this will include details about development on greenfield land. We expect to publish the SA shortly and copies will be placed in the House Library.

Eco-towns: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what funding and other resources her Department is providing to run road shows or other events to promote eco-towns; [230314]

(2) what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location of each exhibition and road show funded (i) directly and (ii) indirectly by her Department in relation to the eco-towns programme is. [230316]

Mr. Iain Wright: Exhibitions and roadshows will be taking place in venues close to the locations of potential eco-towns to provide the opportunity for local communities to express views and understand more about the potential eco-town proposed in their area. The dates of these events are still under consideration, and as soon as details are available my Department will publicise the dates and locations.

The programme and budgets for these events are still in development, so I will write to the hon. Member with this information when we have finalised the programme.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1421-42W, on empty property, what the timetable for *(a)* information gathering and *(b)* the publication of the conclusions is; [230150]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1995-96W, on non-domestic rates: empty properties, which local authorities provided information on evasion of empty property rates. [230156]

John Healey: The Government have requested information from local authorities to provide information on evasion of empty property rates. The Government requested information in June and September and intend to request further information throughout the first year of the reforms and we will set out in an appropriate form our general findings in due course.

English Regions Network

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2082W, on the English Regions Network, if she will make it her policy to cease funding the English Regions Network. [230146]

John Healey: The consultation on the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration included proposals to remove regional planning powers from regional assemblies. We intend to publish our response to that consultation shortly.

Fire Services: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been paid *(a)* by (i) employees and (ii) employers into and *(b)* to those receiving pensions payments by the (A) new and (B) old firefighters' pension schemes in each of the last five years. [229351]

John Healey: The figures for the firefighters' pensions schemes are as follows[1]:

[1] These are locally administered schemes and data are provided by fire and rescue authorities. Prior to 2003-04, these data were not collected centrally. Final audited data not yet available for 2007-08.

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*New FPS 2006-07*	*Old FPS 2006-07*
Employee Contribution[1]	[2]n/a	99.551	99.044	2.296	100.296
Employer Contribution[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.009	197.992
Total Pensions Payments[4]	384.064	429.144	474.029	450.388	

[1] Employee contributions are 11 per cent. of pensionable pay for the 1992 firefighters' pension scheme and 8.5 per cent. for the 2006 new firefighters' pension scheme.

[2] Data on employee contributions not collected centrally in 2003-04.

[3] Prior to April 2006, fire and rescue authorities were responsible for paying pensions from their operating account. Since 2006-07, employer contributions are 21.3 per cent. of pensionable pay for the 1992 firefighters' pension scheme and 11 per cent. for the 2006 new firefighters' pension scheme. The figures in the table also include lump sum charges in respect of ill health retirements.

[4] Excludes outward transfers to other pension schemes.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to issue fixed penalty notices. [230294]

Mr. Khan: Fixed penalty notices are issued under various powers, which are the responsibility of a number of Government Departments.

Greenbelt: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications relating to development on green belt land have been called in by her or her predecessors since 1 October 2000; and how many such applications were ultimately *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected. [230712]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 1 April 2002, the Secretary of State has issued decisions on 31 called-in planning applications relating to development on green belt land. Of these, 15 were approved and 16 were rejected. Information for the period before April 2002 is not available as the national database recording Secretary of State planning decisions was not in existence before that date.

Householder Development Consents Review

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the implementation of the conclusions of the Householder Development Consents Review. [230547]

Mr. Iain Wright: The review recommended that it should be easier for people to improve their homes by removing the need for planning applications where development would have little impact on others. We implemented changes to householder permitted development rights, in response to these recommendations, on 1 October.

Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's research entitled Impact of Demographic Change on Housing, with project reference: RAE 3/16/16. [229690]

Mr. Iain Wright: The report from this research project is entitled "Housing Choices and Aspirations of Older People", and was published on the Communities and Local Government website in February 2008. I have placed a copy of this report in the Library.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review provisions in the Land Compensation Act 1961 relating to the rebuilding of houses destroyed by Second World War ordnance following the recent Court of Appeal ruling in Greenweb Ltd. v. Wandsworth Borough Council [2008] WLR (D), 286, with particular reference to the recommendations of the Law Commission on sections 15(3) and (4) of that Act. [230348]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no plans to do so. I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the then Minister for Housing and Planning on 15 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 162WS, about the Government's response to the Law Commission's report "Towards a Compulsory Purchase Code".

The "Greenweb *v.* Wandsworth" case is unfortunate, but it is also exceptional. The response to the Law Commission's report has to be viewed against the background of the range of planning reforms that the Government have introduced since 2004, which have streamlined the planning system and ensured that the majority of individual applications are dealt with much more swiftly.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average number is of data items held for each property on the National Register of Social Housing. [230457]

Mr. Iain Wright: As of 18 September 2008 the average number of data items held on each dwelling recorded in the National Register of Social Housing was 39.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households are expected to be supported by the HomeBuy Direct scheme in each of the next three years; and at what cost to the public purse. [230700]

Mr. Iain Wright: HomeBuy Direct is expected to provide the opportunity for up to 10,000 households to access affordable home ownership over financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10. It is difficult to give an accurate estimate of delivery in each year before the conclusion of the competition to select suitable schemes and properties from house builders. This competition opened on 1 October and is expected to conclude by the end of the 2008-09 financial year. However, we have published indicative figures that suggest that there could be up to 8,333 HomeBuy Direct completions in 2009-10.

The scheme has been allocated £300 million of Communities and Local Government funding.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has undertaken, commissioned or evaluated on the relative changes of the prices of houses and flats in the last 12 months. [230347]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on house price changes by dwelling type are available from the monthly CLG house price index available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housepriceindex.

CLG uses data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey (RMS), carried out by the Council of Mortgage Lenders, to calculate mix-adjusted house prices for the CLG house price index. The RMS includes mortgage completions data which cover approximately 60 per cent. of the UK mortgage market in 2007.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of tenant satisfaction with each registered social landlord's performance on repairs and maintenance was in each of the last five years. [229282]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation requires registered social landlords (RSLs) to survey their tenants at least every three years in a form consistent with the National Housing Federation's STATUS (Standard Tenant Satisfaction Survey) methodology. Since 2007, the Housing Corporation has collected information from RSLs' general needs tenant surveys on satisfaction with repairs, which is published as the performance indicator 'Tenant satisfaction with repairs and maintenance service'. In accordance with its published performance indicator criteria, the Corporation publishes the results on this performance indicator for associations with greater than 1,000 dwellings in total and that manage at least 250 general needs dwellings.

This information is not available for years before 2007. The information for 2007 is available through the Housing Corporation's website at:

http://housingpis.co.uk/

The information for 2008 will be published on the website shortly.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account was taken of British Standard BS 5906:2005 on waste management in buildings in the development of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [230658]

Mr. Iain Wright: The guidance in British Standard 5906:2005 is used as the basis of the methodology for calculating the volume of waste storage space required for the mandatory recycling element in the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties have been granted a zero star rating under the Code for Sustainable Homes in each month since the code's inception. [231247]

Mr. Iain Wright: A property can be awarded a zero star rating under the Code for Sustainable Homes if it does not meet the credits required to achieve a specific level (1-6). There have been no properties awarded a zero star certificate to date. If a zero star certificate was issued it would be accompanied by a report that explained what elements of the code were achieved.

A nil rated certificate is a self-declaration by a builder that they have built their dwelling to meet the standards set down in Building Regulations rather than building to a specific level of the code. A nil rated certificate can be freely downloaded from the internet and included in a home information pack for a new home. We do not collect data on the number of nil rated certificates.

Interreg Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects are being considered under the Interreg IVC programme which relate to the United Kingdom. [229669]

John Healey: Five projects have been approved with UK lead partners in the first call for projects on Interreg IVC programme, which has now closed.

These are:

1. Power—where the South East RDA is the lead partner
2. SEE—where Design Wales is the lead partner
3. PIMMS Transfer—where the London Borough of Bromley is the lead partner
4. GRaBS—where the Town and Country Planning Association is the lead partner
5. RAPIDE—where the South West Regional Development Agency is the lead partner.

Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the terms of reference are of the review by Land Data cic of local authorities; what the cost is to the public purse for the work; and when it will report. [230698]

Mr. Iain Wright: Land Data cic were commissioned to develop a database on local authority performance, and state of preparedness following guidance issued by the Department, on access to property search information and forthcoming guidance on charging for property search information

The total costs were £53,439.77 (inclusive of VAT). We received a report on 3 October 2008 which we are currently considering.

Local Authorities: Public Relations

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department and its predecessors have issued to local authorities on local authority-funded *(a)* public relations and *(b)* marketing in each of the last five years. [230342]

John Healey: We have issued no such guidance other than the "Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity", first issued in 1988 and revised in 2001, which remains in force. In our White Paper "Communities in control: real people, real power", we have undertaken to consult on potential changes to the publicity code, which we intend to do shortly.

Local Government Services: Sports

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has taken steps to encourage implementation of the recommendations of the Audit Commission's 2006 report into Public Sports and Recreation Services. [226616]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Government welcomed this important report, which highlighted the need for better, more strategic decision making by local authorities on the procurement and management of leisure facilities. We want to help local authorities to modernise their leisure facilities and to ensure that the right sports facilities are provided in the right location. Sport England has developed a range of strategic planning tools to assist them. These include: the Active Places database, which provides a comprehensive picture of a range of sports facilities across the country; the National Benchmarking Service; a facilities planning model; and a sports facilities demand estimator. In addition, Sport England's Facilities Improvement Service is working closely with a number of local authorities to improve their strategic planning for community sport at the local level.

On the specific recommendations:

> Through the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Free Swimming programmes a range of Government Departments, including the Department of Health, Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are working together to ensure a coordinated approach to investment in sports and recreation facilities;
>
> As part of the BSF programme, local authorities must demonstrate that they have consulted with Sport England, County Sports Partnerships, sports governing bodies and others concerning the strategic development of school sports facilities within their area. Additionally, Partnerships for Schools' PE and sports advisers help local authority sports stakeholder groups to develop dual school community-use facilities;
>
> In BSF, the local education partnership (LEPS) actively promotes opportunities for local councils to develop strategic capital development proposals to achieve better value for money through joint procurement;
>
> DCMS were not allocated private finance initiative (PFI) credits in CSR07 and will not therefore be directly supporting any leisure PFI projects but continue to work with councils who are currently procuring leisure facilities through PFI and with the public private partnerships programme (4ps) and regional centres of excellence on procurement guidance. Sport England is also working with a number of local authorities on the development of sustainable public private partnerships.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what impact assessment has been produced by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission on the effect of moving from comprehensive performance assessment to comprehensive area assessment. [230327]

John Healey: A copy of the Regulatory Impact Assessment carried out for the 2006 Local Government White Paper, "Strong and Prosperous Communities", is available on my Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/154064.pdf

This impact assessment covered all of the policy proposals in the White Paper including the changes to the local assessment and inspection regime.

The inspectorates consulted jointly this summer on the methodology Government have tasked them to develop for the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). They have carried out an equalities impact assessment of their methodology proposals, on which a report was appended to the consultation document. This can be accessed via:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/caa/consultation.asp

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statutory requirements there are on local authorities to provide information on an authority's activities in the area it serves. [230343]

John Healey: Information listing the statutory requirements placed on local authorities to provide information about their activities in their areas is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. This is because the requirements are contained in various different enactments not all of which are the policy responsibility of DCLG.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the premises of diplomatic missions are *(a)* valued for non-domestic rates by the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* exempt from non-domestic rates. [229715]

John Healey: Premises of diplomatic missions are *(a)* valued by the Valuation Office Agency, being shown in rating lists, and *(b)* not exempt from non-domestic rates. Consular premises nevertheless enjoy a statutory immunity contained in the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964, which prevents the enforcement of rate demands.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average cost of empty property business rates to local authorities in 2008-09 arising from empty local authority properties. [230182]

John Healey: An impact assessment detailing the impact of the empty property reforms was published by Communities and Local Government in May 2007 accompanying the introduction of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill and a further assessment was laid before this House on the 26 February accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008—No. 386.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the forecast additional revenue arising from empty property business rates will be *(a)* treated and *(b)* disposed of. [230196]

John Healey: The forecast additional revenue arising from empty property business rates has been taken into account in the calculation of the distributable amount.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1427W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, whether each sub-location is given *(a)* a name and *(b)* a unique number. [230126]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

(a) Each sub-location is given a description.

(b) Each sub-location has a unique identifier.

Ordnance Survey

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to Ordnance Survey on its role as *(a)* an adviser and *(b)* a commercial supplier to the Government. [229484]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the fourth paragraph of section 2.2 of Ordnance Survey's Framework Document, July 2004, available at:

http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/aboutus/reports/index.html

The Department has not issued guidance to Ordnance Survey in its role as a commercial supplier to the Government.

Ordnance Survey: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what datasets Ordnance Survey has purchased from the company MapInfo. [230803]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey has purchased no datasets from Pitney Bowes MapInfo. The standard MapInfo software product includes sample datasets but these are not used by Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey: Visits Abroad

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Ordnance Survey has spent on overseas travel for its staff in the last 12 months; and which *(a)* cities and *(b)* countries have been visited. [230917]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey's total expenditure on overseas travel in the 12 months to 30 September 2008, was £180,320 on overseas travel. The cities and countries visited were as follows:

Country	*City*
Australia	Melbourne
Austria	Graz Vienna
Bahrain	Bahrain
Belgium	Brussels
Canada	Vancouver
Croatia	Dubrovnik
Denmark	Copenhagen
Eire	Dublin Shannon
Estonia	Tallinn

Country	*City*
Finland	Helsinki
France	Paris Nice
Germany	Berlin Frankfurt Hanover
Hungary	Budapest
Italy	Milan Catania
Latvia	Riga
Libya	Tripoli
Luxembourg	Luxembourg
Netherlands	Amsterdam
Norway	Oslo
Poland	Warsaw
Portugal	Lisbon
Romania	Bucharest Sibiu
Sweden	Stockholm
USA	Baltimore Boston Chicago Detroit Orlando San Diego San Francisco Seattle St. Louis Washington

Parish Councils: Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to implement her proposal to make parish polls more accessible contained in the Community Empowerment White Paper. [230296]

John Healey: Any changes to the current arrangements for parish polls will require legislation. We plan to consult on making parish polls more accessible in the new year. Following consultation we will give consideration to the detail of any legislative changes that may be necessary.

Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation on the manner in which the Secretary of State may specify circumstances for the intervention on and determination of planning applications. [230417]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have no plans to amend any primary or secondary legislation, nor their policy on the circumstances in which the Secretary of State may intervene in the determination of planning applications. The Government are, however, currently reviewing the extent to which planning applications should be automatically referred to the Government for consideration for call-in. Having undertaken a consultation exercise between 7 January 2008 and 31 March 2008, work is now in progress on preparing a composite new direction.

Preventing Violent Extremism Programme

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects her Department is undertaking through the Preventing Violent Extremism programme; and what the budget of each is. [231265]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* Our overall budget for the Preventing Violent Extremism programme in the current comprehensive spending review period (2008 to 2011) is £84.5 million. Of this, £45 million is being paid through Area Based Grant (ABG) to local authorities, and it is for those authorities to determine how the funds are invested locally: they are not ring-fenced.

The allocation of the remaining funding has not yet been finalised, but we expect to support projects in a number of areas including: theological understanding; building community resilience; engaging and empowering young Muslims and Muslim women; local partnerships and delivery; faith institutions; and research and evaluation.

Regional Efficiency Improvement Partnerships

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated to regional efficiency improvement partnerships in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [230335]

John Healey: In respect of 2008-09 funding, I refer the hon. Member to the answer he was given on 21 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 1414W by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda).

Decisions in respect of 2009-10 funding will be released with the main estimates for 2009-10.

Regional Empowerment Consortia

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1412W, on regional empowerment consortia, how much her Department has allocated to regional empowerment consortia in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [230035]

Mr. Khan: For 2008-09 the Community Development Foundation received £1,645,000 from the Department for Communities and Local Government to support nine independent regional empowerment consortia. Subject to satisfactory performance review the Community Development Foundation will receive for 2009-10 a further £1,715,000 to continue this support.

Regional Planning and Development: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1411W, on regional planning and development, whether she has received notification from Castle Point borough council that it has set a target for submission to her of the Local Development Plan of March 2009; and if she will make a statement. [230848]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State has not received formal notification from Castle Point borough council of its latest timetable for progressing its core strategy which is the primary development plan document in the local development framework.

However the borough council has told the Government office for the east of England that it intends to publish a pre-submission consultation in December 2008 with formal submission to the Secretary of State to follow in February 2009.

The council has also indicated that it intends to review its local development scheme next year with submission to Secretary of State expected by March 2009.

Retail Trade: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the Government to publish its assessment of whether to introduce a competition test to the planning system for retail development. [230719]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government published their response to the Competition Commission's (CC) inquiry into UK groceries retailing in July. The CC recommendation to introduce a 'competition test' in planning decisions on larger grocery stores is an important recommendation both for the Commission and for large grocery retailers. The Government are carefully considering this recommendation and Tesco have appealed this decision to the Competition Appeal Tribunal.

We will report more fully on our decision in the light of developments. Our published response can be viewed on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/bbf/competition/market-studies/supplyofgroceries/index.html

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social tenants participated in the *(a)* right to buy and *(b)* right to acquire scheme in each year since the introduction of each scheme. [230193]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is available on the numbers of social housing sales, rather than the number of social tenants participating in the RTB and RTA schemes.

The following table shows: *(a)* the numbers of local authority right to buy sales in England since the scheme was introduced in 1980 and the numbers of registered social landlord right to buy and preserved right to buy right sales and *(b)* the number of registered social landlord right to acquire sales since its introduction in 1997.

Year[1]	*LARTB sales*[2]	*RSL RTB and PRTB sales*[3 4]	*Total right to buy sales*	*Total right to acquire sales*[5]
1980-81	2,330	—	2,330	—
1981-82	105,200	—	105,200	—
1982-83	167,120	—	167,120	—
1983-84	106,260	—	106,260	—
1984-85	77,520	—	77,520	—
1985-86	72,140	—	72,140	—
1986-87	76,750	—	76,750	—
1987-88	93,730	—	93,730	—
1988-89	135,700	—	135,700	—
1989-90	133,800	—	133,800	—
1990-91	76,330	—	76,330	—
1991-92	48,290	—	48,290	—
1992-93	37,690	—	37,690	—
1993-94	44,680	—	44,680	—
1994-95	43,340	—	43,340	—
1995-96	31,510	—	31,510	—
1996-97	33,210	2,380	35,580	—
1997-98	41,330	4,500	45,830	0
1998-99	40,270	4,410	44,690	0
1999-2000	54,250	7,250	61,500	4
2000-01	52,380	7,100	59,480	18
2001-02	51,970	8,220	60,190	38
2002-03	63,390	10,470	73,870	111
2003-04	69,580	14,530	84,100	236
2004-05	49,980	8,670	58,650	411
2005-06	26,650	6,360	33,010	471
2006-07	16,900	4,840	21,730	570
2007-08	11,960	3,150	15,110	[6]544
Total	1,764,260	81,860	1,846,120	[6]2,403

[1] Figures for individual years are rounded and may not add to the total.

[2] Local authority right to buy figures are from returns (PIB) from local authorities to Communities and Local Government.

[3] Registered social landlord right to buy and preserved right to buy figures are from the Regulatory and Statistical Return to the Housing Corporation.

[4] Figures are not available for individual years for the number of registered social landlord right to buy are before 1996-97, although it is estimated that there were approximately 100,000 RSL RTB sales up to 1995-96.

[5] Right to acquire figures are from Housing Corporation information.

[6] Provisional.

State of the Cities Database

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose of the proposed State of the Cities Database development is. [230185]

John Healey: CLG is committed to keeping the key data that underpinned the "State of the English Cities" report, published by ODPM in March 2006, updated within the State of the Cities Database (SOCD). The database is used extensively by central and local government. Regional Development Agencies, academics and bodies like the Centre for Cities and Work Foundation, to monitor the progress and performance of cities in England.

Taking account of feedback received from users since the launch of SOCD in November 2006, a new and improved version of the database was published by the Department in September of this year.

The Department is considering making further improvements to SOCD, by looking at replacing data on Wards and Tracts with data on Super Output Areas (SOAs). This is because since the release of the 2001 Census, SOAs have mainly replaced Wards for the release of statistical information.

Trees: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning constraints are in place relating to the felling of trees within Lever Park, Rivington, near Chorley. [230810]

Mr. Iain Wright: I understand that there is a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) which Chorley borough council have placed on an ancient tree, having recognised its special character as being far older than the rest of those in the park. More generally there are controls through the Forestry Act 1967 which give the Forestry Commission the control over felling trees in any quantity.

Valuation Office: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1429W, on the Valuation Office: council tax, if she will list each type of property attribute data that is sold. [230148]

John Healey: No council tax property attribute data is included in the sale of data reported on Page 54 of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 630W, on the Valuation Office: ICT, on what date the copy of the guidance was placed in the Library. [230143]

John Healey: A copy of the guidance was placed in the Library on 3 July 2008.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have cited a move to an alternate weekly collection of household rubbish as an efficiency saving in their annual efficiency returns submitted to her Department. [230295]

John Healey: For information on citations in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 Backward Look efficiency statements, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1173-74W. For information on citations in the 2006-07 Backward Look efficiency statements, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend, the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1324W.

Citations in the 2007-08 Backward Look efficiency statements are as follows:

Canterbury city council
Charnwood borough council
Crewe and Nantwich borough council
Kennet district council
Kirklees metropolitan borough council
North Hertfordshire district council
Redditch borough council
Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council
South Cambridgeshire district council
Spelthorne borough council
Swale borough council
Test Valley borough council
West Lancashire district council
York city council

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies. [231367]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows.

(a) There are currently 20 press officers and 63 communications officers in the Department for Children Schools and Families.

(b) We do not hold numbers of staff employed in our non-departmental public bodies.

(c) The Department does not have any agencies.

Health Education: Sex

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will publish the results of the research commissioned by his Department's Sex and Relationship Education Steering Group; [231410]

(2) what evidence was considered by the Sex and Relationship Education Steering Group on the effectiveness of delivering sex and relationship education before the onset of sexual activity. [231411]

Jim Knight: The Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Review steering group considered a wide range of evidence to inform its report and recommendations. This included: existing surveys and reports, such as the latest Ofsted reports on PSHE and the findings from the UK Youth Parliament's report on SRE; new evidence that was commissioned specifically for the review, such as surveys of teachers' views on what was preventing better delivery of SRE; and a literature review on the existing international evidence on SRE. Details of the range of evidence considered by the steering group are referenced in its report. The specific evidence that concludes that 'sex education is more effective if begun before the onset of sexual activity' is included in the following reports:

> "Update on review of reviews on teenage pregnancy and parenthood", Trivedi D, Bunn F, Graham M, Wentz R, Centre for Research in Primary and Community Care, University of Hertfordshire, On behalf of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and

> Downing, J. et al. (2006) "Prevention of STIs: a review of reviews into the effectiveness of non-clinical interventions" (evidence briefing update) London: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

The new surveys commissioned by the steering group will be published once further analysis of the findings has been completed.

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230505]

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many documents produced by his Department and its predecessor were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231111]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessors have not used the Plain English Campaign since 2005.

The Department has its own style guide based on good practice and designed around its stakeholders.

Primary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to extend the National Challenge to primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [230642]

Jim Knight: We have no plans to extend the National Challenge to primary schools. There will not be a programme that challenges every single primary school to reach a minimum standard.

Local authorities can choose to adopt a floor target for their primary schools as part of their local area agreement but there are no compulsory floor targets for local authorities or for individual primary schools. The optional floor target has been in place for over a year and is that schools should achieve 55 per cent. or more pupils attaining Level 4+ in English and maths combined at Key Stage 2.

Our priority is to help all primary schools improve and work towards our Children's Plan goals—so that by 2020 every child will leave primary school ready to move on to secondary school, with at least 90 per cent. of pupils achieving at or above the expected level in both English and mathematics by age 11.

Pupil Exclusions: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals were given a fixed period exclusion in the last 12 months, broken down by national curriculum year group. [228839]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is not possible, given the amount of analysis required, to provide a response to this question within the time frame required by Parliament. The requested information will be placed in the House of Commons Library shortly.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children who attended pupil referral units in each of the last five years were *(a)* pupils permanently excluded from school and on fixed-term exclusions of more than 15 days, *(b)* pregnant schoolgirls and school-aged mothers, *(c)* anxious or vulnerable pupils, *(d)* school refusers, phobics and young carers, *(e)* pupils unable to attend school because of medical reasons, *(f)* pupils moving into the local authority (casual admissions) who were unable to find a school place because of insufficiency of school places within the local authority, *(g)* children who, because of entering public care or moving placement, required a change of school and were unable to access a school place, *(h)* pupils with statements of special educational need (SEN) whose placements were not yet agreed and pupils awaiting assessment of SEN and (i) asylum seekers and refugees who had no school place. [229641]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not collected.

The available information about the number of pupils with a statement of special educational need in pupil referral units has been published in a series of statistical publications, the most recent of which is the Statistical First Release: "Special Educational Needs in England": January 2008

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml

Pupil Referral Units: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who attended pupil referral units did not achieve an A*-G grade in either English or mathematics GCSE in each of the last 10 years. [228735]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Pupil Referral Units: Head Teachers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupil referral units had more than *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three headteachers in the last year for which records are available. [228733]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is not held centrally.

Pupil Referral Units: Teachers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average vacancy rate for teachers in pupil referral units was in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* region; [228734]

(2) how many and what proportion of teachers at pupil referral units have received special educational needs teacher training beyond their initial teacher training. [229628]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not available.

Schools: Disabled

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in England and Wales have produced a disability equality scheme since the coming into force of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005; [231354]

(2) how many maintained schools have been prosecuted for breaches of the disability equality duties provided for in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005; [231389]

(3) what steps he has taken to monitor schools' compliance with their duty to prepare and publish a disability equality scheme; [231392]

(4) what steps he has taken to monitor *(a)* schools' and *(b)* local authorities' compliance with their general duty to promote disability equality. [231393]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We expect all schools and local authorities to meet their duties to promote disability equality and publish disability equality schemes and we have produced guidance to support them in doing so.

It is part of the remit of the Equalities and Human Right Commission to monitor compliance with these duties.

Under Ofsted's inspection arrangements, schools are expected to complete a self-evaluation form, confirming the extent to which they have met the general requirements of disability discrimination legislation. However, the Department does not monitor centrally schools and local authorities' compliance with disability discrimination legislation.

The first Secretary of State Report on progress towards disability equality will be published on 1 December 2008. As part of preparations for this report a research project has been commissioned to look at how schools are engaging with the specific disability equality duty outlined within the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. A series of national events for schools and local authorities will be hosted by the DCSF in February 2009 to share the learning from the Secretary of State Report.

Schools: Discipline

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Government plans to provide headteachers with additional powers to increase school discipline. [229854]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have significantly strengthened schools' powers to discipline. We have introduced a range of legislation to protect schools from challenges to their disciplinary authority and that reinforces parental responsibility.

New measures in the 4th session Education Bill include extending the existing power to search pupils for weapons to also include alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen property.

In addition to new legal powers, we have also provided schools with high quality training, materials and consultancy support to enable them to promote positive behaviour. We are also helping them form partnerships with other schools, police and other agencies to strengthen behaviour management.

Truancy: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals took unauthorised absence in the last 12 months, broken down by national curriculum year group. [228832]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is not possible, given the amount of analysis required, to provide a response to this question within the timeframe required by Parliament. The requested information will be placed in the House of Commons Library shortly.

UK Council for Child Internet Safety

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates the UK Council for Child Internet Safety has met; when it next plans to meet; and how often he expects the council to meet. [227201]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The UK Council for Child Internet Safety was launched on 29 September by the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. All current members of the Council were invited to attend.

With a large and broad membership of over 100 organisations, most Council activity will be conducted through sub and working groups. These groups will consider cross cutting issues or take forward key commitments within the Byron Review Action Plan. The frequency with which these groups meet will be determined by their membership. This work will be overseen by the executive board, chaired by Home Office and DCSF Ministers, which is expected to meet around four times a year. Dates for the first and future meetings of the executive board are currently being considered.

It is currently anticipated that the full Council will meet once per year at the Prime Minister's annual summit for child internet safety. A date for the first summit is yet to be confirmed.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has undertaken of the effects of

UK-funded reconstruction and development projects in Afghanistan; what plans it has for such studies in the future; and if he will make a statement. [229378]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Department for International Development (DFID) assistance is helping the Government of Afghanistan to deliver positive results. Since 2002 the non-poppy economy has grown by an average of 15 per cent. per year, with overall growth up to 2005-06 standing at 42 per cent. The first parliamentary elections for 36 years were held in September 2005. 6 million children are now in school of which 35 per cent. of whom are girls. This is in comparison with 2001, when an estimated 1 million children were in school and very few were girls as they were denied education under the Taliban.

DFID assistance also impacts directly on local communities. We have committed £50 million (2003-10) to support elected Community Development Councils (CDCs). CDCs have delivered over 23,000 projects to date, chosen by locals, to improve water, roads, health and education. In 2006 alone the DFID-supported National Rural Access Programme improved 9,790 km of roads, connecting 2,800 rural villages.

DFID is currently developing a new third party monitoring and evaluation project to further increase our ability to assess the impact of reconstruction and development activities.

Burma: Ethnic Groups

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what grants were given to the Karen Development Committee in Burma in each of the last five years; and what the purpose of each grant was. [229300]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made any grants to the Karen Development Committee (KDC) in Burma. During 2007 and January 2008, the KDC received support from a civil society project which DFID part-finances. That support ended in January this year.

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* UN staff and *(b)* staff of his Department have unrestricted access to all areas of the delta region in Burma where UK-funded aid is being delivered. [229301]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) and United Nations (UN) staff are required by the Burmese authorities to seek permission to visit the cyclone affected areas of the Irrawaddy Delta.

We understand that no request for permission for UN staff to visit the Irrawaddy Delta has been refused since the donor conference which took place in Rangoon on 23 May. Since then every request for staff from DFID to travel to the Irrawaddy Delta area has been granted except for one in June. DFID staff have made at least 12 field visits to different sites in affected areas, and have been able to meet freely with the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisation which have received DFID funds, as well as with the beneficiaries of our assistance in local communities.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Government of Burma on the lifting of aid restrictions in eastern and other parts of Burma. [229302]

Mr. Michael Foster: In August, senior officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) visiting Burma encouraged Burmese Ministers to extend the humanitarian access allowed in the Irrawaddy Delta to the rest of Burma. Although such an extension has not yet been agreed, DFID officials have been able to travel recently to other parts of Burma, including Shan State. DFID officials will continue to make the case for improved humanitarian access throughout Burma when appropriate opportunities arise.

Burma: Storms

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms are in place to monitor the response to Cyclone Nargis of these organisations or companies using funds allocated by his Department. [229303]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) staff monitor the delivery of our response to Cyclone Nargis through field visits, reporting arrangements agreed with recipient organisations, and the annual audited statements of those organisations. A monitoring mission will spends three weeks in Burma in November reviewing the effectiveness of DFID-funded projects in the Irrawaddy Delta.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which sub-recipients and end recipients received UK relief aid following Cyclone Nargis in Burma. [229304]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold records of all the sub-recipients and end recipients of our assistance. The final beneficiaries of UK relief aid following Cyclone Nargis are Burmese communities and individuals living in the Irrawaddy Delta.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations have received funding from his Department to assist in the response to Cyclone Nargis in Burma. [229305]

Mr. Michael Foster: The following United Nations, international non-governmental organisations and other international bodies have received funding from the Department for International Development (DFID) to assist in the response to Cyclone Nargis in Burma: Action Against Hunger; Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA); Agency for Cooperation and Technical Development (ACTED); Aide Médicale Internationale; Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre; Care; Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO); HelpAge; International Development Enterprises (IDE); International Labour Organisation (ILO); International Organisation for Migration (IOM); Internews; Médecins sans Frontières (MSF); Merlin; UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); Red Cross; Samaritan's Purse; Save the Children; Solidarités; UN Habitat; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Welthungerhilfe; World Food Programme (WFP); World Concern; World Health Organisation (WHO); and World Vision.

DFID provided in-kind assistance such as plastic tarpaulins, mosquito nets, water containers and flat-bottomed boats to: Médecins sans Frontières; Merlin; Red Cross; Save the Children; and the World Food Programme.

DFID has also provided funding to nine Burmese community-based organisations providing humanitarian relief in the Irrawaddy Delta.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the aid provided by his Department to alleviate the effects of Cyclone Nargis in Burma has been given to private companies for relief and reconstruction work; to which companies; and for what purpose. [229306]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not contracted private companies to undertake relief and reconstruction work in Burma. Approximately £4.46 million of DFID's £45 million Cyclone Nargis relief aid has been spent on the purchase outside Burma (mainly from the private sector) and the delivery to Rangoon of relief materials such as plastic sheets, mosquito nets, water containers and flat-bottomed boats. DFID funding is also used by recipient UN and non-governmental organisations for the external procurement and delivery of relief materials, and in some cases for the purchase of materials from the private sector inside Burma. Most small scale reconstruction work, such as the repair of footpaths and jetties, is carried out by community-level cooperatives or individual labourers. DFID does not hold records of all the transactions made by the UN and non-governmental organisations which we fund.

DFID monitors relief activities through field visits, reporting from recipient organisations and audited statements. Organisations receiving grants from DFID are expected to adhere to the terms of the European Union Common Position on restrictive measures against Burma.

Departmental Fraud

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1339-40W, on departmental fraud, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's submission to HM Treasury for the 2007 Annual Fraud Report. [229357]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A copy of the Department for International Development's (DFID) annual fraud return will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229529]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently has 1,640 staff who are eligible to join the civil service pension scheme arrangements. The following table shows the proportion of those staff who are members of the Classic, Classic Plus, Nuvos and Premium pension schemes.

DFID staff who are members of pension scheme

Pension scheme	*Number*	*Percentage*
Classic	901	54.9
Classic Plus	87	5.3
Nuvos	55	3.4
Premium	541	33

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants working in his Department have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229548]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Department for International Development's Resource Accounts for the financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library or accessed electronically by the following link:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/dfidresourceaccounts0708.pdf

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many individuals his Department recruited from the fast stream through *(a)* the Central Departments option and *(b)* the Technical Development option in each of the last five years. [229356]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The number of all our current civil servants who were recruited through the fast stream, for each of the last five complete years (i.e. 2003 to 2007 inclusive), plus 2008 to date, are shown in the following table.

	Number of current DFID civil servants recruited to the fast stream	*Generalist*	*Technical*
2003	23	23	0
2004	16	16	0
2005	19	19	0
2006	18	12	6
2007	25	18	7
2008 to date (as at mid-October)	19	16	3

However, we do not have readily available information on the numbers specifically recruited via the *(a)* Central Departments option or *(b)* the Technical Development option, and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to increase access to AIDS medication in developing countries. [231001]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: At Gleneagles in 2005, the UK Government led efforts to secure the commitment of the G8 to the goal of universal access to HIV treatment by 2010. In 2007, the G8 committed to scale up their efforts to achieve Universal Access, including providing, with other donors, a projected $60 billion over the coming years. G8 leaders at their meeting in July this year reiterated their commitment to work towards the goal of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. The UK Government continue to push G8 colleagues to ensure they fulfil and implement previous summit commitments.

In June 2008, the UK Government made a commitment to spend £6 billion over seven years to 2015 to strengthen health systems and services which are essential to the provision of effective treatment. Subject to performance, the UK Government has also committed an additional £1 billion to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria from 2008-15 and has made a 20 year commitment of up to €60 million per year by 2010 to the UNITAID drug purchase facility. Both play key roles in supporting countries to access high quality, affordable medicines for the treatment of HIV.

In addition, the UK Government has worked with pharmaceutical companies to develop a Good Practice Framework (2005) to help support access to medicines for the poor. The UK Government continue to support the right of developing countries to use, judiciously and where necessary, flexibilities available under international trade rules to ensure access to affordable, high quality medicines.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to assist developing countries to meet the costs of AIDS medication. [231002]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government are committed to work with international partners to reduce drug prices and increase access to more affordable and sustainable treatment over the long term in developing countries. We are working with the World Health Organisation and others to develop a global procurement database that could yield cost efficiency savings of at least £50 million per annum, enough to fund medicines for an additional one million people every year.

The UK Government launched the Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA) in May. By disclosing information on the price, quality and availability of medicines, MeTA will help to increase public accountability and improve access to medicines, including HIV treatment. The UK Government have made a 20 year commitment of up to €60 million per year by 2010 to support the international drugs purchase facility, UNITAID. This will help reduce the cost of HIV treatment. This also includes exploring the possibility of a voluntary patent pool for antiretroviral drugs.

The UK Government support the use of generic medicines where patents have expired, or where there is no patent on the medicine concerned. We have consistently and strongly supported the right of developing countries to use flexibilities available under World Trade Organisation agreements to facilitate access to medicines. This includes using compulsory licences, which permit countries to produce or import generic versions of patented drugs.

Starting in 2008, DFID will support a new regional programme on Access to Medicines in Southern Africa. The programme will spend £10 million over the first three years to deliver more affordable, quality medicines and diagnostics, including AIDS medication.

Voluntary Work

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated to the Platform2 programme; what conditions were attached to that funding; and what assessment he has made of how effectively that funding has been spent. [229643]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £9,935,381 over three years (2008-11) to the Platform2 programme.

The main conditions attached to the funding are: a target to involve a minimum of 2,500 UK volunteers, aged between 18 and 25, and focusing on less advantaged young adults who do not normally have the opportunity to participate in such schemes; each volunteer's programme to include a visit to a developing country of between two to four months to participate in a development project, and an activity plan to raise awareness of development issues upon their return to the UK.

To date, DFID assesses that the money has been effectively spent. Since the launch in February 2008, 170 UK volunteers have completed (or are currently participating) in the programme in Ghana, South Africa, Peru, India and Nepal. Review visits to Ghana by our implementing partners have been very positive. Volunteers who have returned to the UK have developed concrete action plans to raise development awareness, including through media interviews, creating blogs and other online tools.

A mid-term review of this programme will be carried out in mid-2009.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the World Bank, *(b)* the African Development Bank, *(c)* the International Monetary Fund and *(d)* the UN on a long-term economic assistance package for Zimbabwe; what conditions would be imposed by the Government on any such package; and if he will make a statement; [229354]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the World Bank, *(b)* the African Development Bank, *(c)* the International Monetary Fund and *(d)* the UN on an international donor conference for Zimbabwe; what conditions the Government would apply to the holding of such a conference; and if he will make a statement. [229355]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In principle, the UK Government stand ready, as part of a wider international effort, to support Zimbabwe's economic recovery if a new administration shows a clear commitment to change and a willingness to tackle the root causes of economic, political and social decline. Macro-economic reform—including tackling hyperinflation—must be at the forefront of any reform efforts, as well as reviving the wider economy and supporting basic social and humanitarian needs. There is broad agreement among international donors on a core set of common sense global values which would signal such a change: these include an end to political violence, free and equal humanitarian access, commitment to democracy and to economic reform and respect for human rights. In order to succeed, recovery and development efforts must be led by a Government of Zimbabwe that are committed to reform. The timing and details of any donor conference must be decided by the new administration.

This is the stance the UK Government and like-minded donors have presented in all recent discussions with international partners. The UK Government are engaged in a range of discussions on recovery with the major international financial institutions and other bilateral donors. Such meetings take place regularly in Harare and between donor capitals. Zimbabwe is also discussed at ad hoc international events: recent examples of which include the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly and the World Bank/IMF annual meetings in early October 2008.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 30 October 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what IT projects his Department is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the completion date of each is. [229170]

Mr. Woodward: The majority of IT projects are relatively small and are developed in-house with minimum cost. To compile information to support all projects would be at disproportionate cost. Therefore the information within the following table relates only to current approved IT projects which cost in excess of £1 million.

Project name	*Estimated cost (£ million)*	*Completion date*
Causeway Programme	£61	March 2011
Prisoner Record Information System (PRISM)—Technical Refresh	£1.3	March 2010

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies. [230039]

Mr. Woodward: The number of press and communications officers employed by my Department, its non-departmental public bodies and its agencies are contained the following table.

	Number of press and communications officers employed
Northern Ireland Office	10
Agencies	4
Non-departmental public bodies	
Executive non-departmental public bodies	8
Other public bodies	1
International bodies	1
Total	24

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226426]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office operates three bonus schemes—special bonuses (to reward particularly meritorious contributions during the year), an end of year bonus for staff below the senior civil service (SCS) (to reward performance and delivery throughout the year), and a bonus scheme for SCS staff which is an integral part of the pay arrangements in operation in all Whitehall and Northern Ireland Departments. Figures are set out in the following table.

	Special bonuses 2007-08 (paid 2007-08)	*End year bonuses 2007-08 (paid 2008-09)*
Number of staff	697	409
Total (£)	188,350	609,875

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222142]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 90-91W, by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson).

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Drinks

Mr. Hands: To ask the Solicitor-General what total value of *(a)* alcoholic and *(b)* non-alcoholic drink was purchased by the Attorney-General's Office in each of the last 12 months. [230921]

The Solicitor-General: The total value of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drink purchased by the Attorney-General's Office is illustrated in the following table:

£

	Alcoholic	*Non-alcoholic*
2007		
September	12.00	3.50
October	—	—
November	—	1,662.63
December	500.05	124.20
2008		
January	90.45	9.40
February	—	—
March	—	—
April	—	—
May	—	163.20
June	—	—
July	—	126.44
August	11.90	2.50
September	—	—

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Hands: To ask the Solicitor-General what makes and models of Ministerial cars are available to the Law Officers. [230920]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W, given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) to the hon. Member for Houghton and Washington, East (Mr. Kemp).

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Scott: To ask the Solicitor-General how many vacant posts in *(a)* the Attorney-General's Office and *(b)* its agencies were advertised in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [230599]

The Solicitor-General: The following tables show the number of vacant posts advertised by the Attorney-General's Office and its agencies:

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	Number of posts	*Cost (£)*	*Number of posts*	*Cost (£)*	*Number of posts*	*Cost (£)*
Attorney-General's Office	6	[1]30,788	1	[2]29,288	5	[3]107,893
Treasury Solicitor's Department	85	[1]—	154	[2]—	—	[3]—
Serious Fraud Office	21	42,236.03	39	51,259.07	43	139,667.97
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	16	29,872.00	18	36,118.24	6	38,666.85

	2006		*2007*		*2008 to date*	
	Number of posts	*Cost (£)*	*Number of posts*	*Cost (£)*	*Number of posts*	*Cost (£)*
Crown Prosecution Service	121	442,267	90	326,960	88	322,504
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office	67	21,161	33	45,931	40	60,576

Note:

The Departments runs general recruitment campaigns from time to time, for which the number of posts advertised is not always specified. These campaigns have been reflected in the above information where the figures are available.

[1, 2, 3]: Answers in all cases apply to both Attorney-General's Office and Treasury Solicitor's Department

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hands: To ask the Solicitor-General what gateway reviews were conducted in the Attorney-General's Office in each of the last 12 months. [230922]

The Solicitor-General: None.

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Attorney-General's Office spent on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year. [230494]

The Solicitor-General: The cost of external courses broken down by financial year is illustrated in the following table.

£

Organisation	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Advance Training and Consultancy	—	—	—	2,700.00
Alba	295.00	—	—	—
ASLIB/IMI	70.50	—	—	—
Birkbeck College	—	—	—	600.00
Cambridge Constabulary	40.00	—	—	—
Centrex	53.00	—	—	—
Charted Institute of Lib and Info Profession	460.00	—	—	—
Circle of State Librarians	395.00	—	—	—
D. J. Howarth	—	—	—	1,173.00
DOD'S Parliamentary Communications	—	—	480.00	480.00
ERA	—	—	—	420.70
FOI Live Conference Office	—	—	375.00	440.63
Fraud Advisory Panel	—	—	—	120.00
G. Navana	—	64.35	—	—
GCB	350.00	—	—	—
Germain Academic Exchange Service	—	—	50.00	—
Govenetx Ltd.	—	145.00	—	—
Govnet Communications	149.00	—	—	—
Hemsley Fraser Training Group	779.00	—	—	—
IAP Paris	—	—	526.39	392.73
ICC Ltd.	425.01	—	—	—
Kings College London	—	150.00	200.00	200.00
Lemos and Crane	345.00	—	—	—
LexisNexis Europe Ltd.	541.58	—	1,136.60	349.00

£

Organisation	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
McNiel Robertson Partners	1,372.20	—	—	—
National Archive	535.00	—	—	—
National Security and Advice Centre	—	361.70	—	—
Neil Stewart Assc	395.00	395.00	—	—
Parliamentary Communications	580.00	—	—	—
Private and Data Protection	—	—	—	1,100.75
St. John Ambulance	305.00	610.00	110.00	777.50
Sweet and Maxwell Ltd.	1,840.00	2,185.00	1,850.00	350.00
TFPL Ltd.	1,780.00	—	—	—
The Bar Council	325.00	—	—	—
The Campaign for Freedom of Information	—	—	200.00	—
The Centre for Corporate Accountability	—	70.00	—	—
The Solicitor Group	—	—	—	257.45
The Whitehall and Industry Group	65.00	—	—	—
The Complete Support Group	—	—	714.00	—
UKAEL	200.00	—	—	—
University of Cambridge	—	—	170.00	—
University of Liverpool	750.00	—	—	—
University of Oxford	125.00	—	—	—
Total	12,175.29	3,981.05	5,811.99	9,361.76

Domestic Violence: Hampshire

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for offences related to domestic violence there were in Hampshire in each of the last 10 years. [231625]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows the domestic violence prosecutions that have been brought by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Earlier figures have not been provided, as the CPS's records on domestic violence prosecutions are considered as complete and reliable only from 2005-06.

	Convictions		Unsuccessful outcomes		
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Total prosecutions
2005-06	1,032	64.2	575	35.8	1,607
2006-07	1,383	68.3	642	31.7	2,025
2007-08	1,691	68.3	785	31.7	2,476

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Solicitor-General how many documents produced by the Attorney-General's Office were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230503]

The Solicitor-General: Records are not held by the Attorney-General's Office on documents submitted to the Plain English Campaign.

Sentencing

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Solicitor-General how many charges brought by the police were downgraded to a lesser charge by the Crown Prosecution Service in the last 12 months. [231606]

The Solicitor-General: The records maintained by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) comprise information at defendant level rather than at specific charge level, and include no data on amendments made to charges during the life of criminal proceedings. To obtain this information, by reference to individual case files, would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9).

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions sought by the police were not proceeded with by the Crown Prosecution Service in the last 12 months. [231615]

The Solicitor-General: The decision not to proceed with a prosecution may be taken either by way of a pre-charge decision, or after a defendant has been charged and proceedings have commenced.

The following table shows the number of defendants whose cases were referred to Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Areas for a pre-charge decision in the 12 months ending 30 September 2008. The table includes an analysis of the decisions taken by the CPS, broken down into those in which the decision was to bring charges, and all other pre-charge decisions.

The table also shows the number of defendants whose cases were completed during the same period, together with the number and the proportion that resulted in a conviction and in an unsuccessful outcome. Within those resulting in an unsuccessful outcome, the table shows separately the number and proportion in which the CPS decided, on consideration of the evidence and the public interest, that a prosecution should not proceed.

Table 1: Pre-charge decisions October 2007-September 2008

	Number	Percentage
Decisions to charge	307,924	56.7
All other pre-charge decisions of which	234,677	43.3
Finalised by decision (comprises: simple cautions, conditional, cautions, reprimand, final warnings and those offence(s) taken into consideration in relation to other charges)	22,644	4.2
Incomplete cases	5,651	1.0
No prosecution—evidential	137,768	25.4
No prosecution—public interest	11,566	2.1
Finalised administratively	36,245	6.7
Other	20,803	3.8%
Total	542,601	

Notes:

1. Decisions to charge: where the CPS decided that a defendant should be charged.
2. Finalised by decision: where a caution; a conditional caution; a reprimand; or a final warning was given; or where the offence(s) was taken into consideration in relation to other charges.
3. Incomplete cases: those where further information or action is requested or deemed necessary.
4. No prosecution: where a decision was taken not to prosecute.
5. Finalised administratively: cases not returned to CPS for a decision, including those where the defendant failed to answer to bail and a warrant remained outstanding.
6. Other: includes cases where the outcome of the charging process was not correctly recorded

Table 2: Prosecution outcomes October 2007-September 2008

	Number	*Percentage*
Convictions	905,230	86.1
Total unsuccessful outcomes	145,817	13.9
Of which:		
Not proceeded with	98,648	9.4
Total	1,051,047	

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Diseases

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the changes in mean surface temperature on the number of flystrike cases reported this *(a)* summer and *(b)* autumn. [231412]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 29 October 2008]:* Flystrike is not a notifiable disease and as such farmers are not obliged to report cases to Animal Health. The number of submissions to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) are very small and therefore any conclusions drawn from these figures would be unreliable as they are not reflective of the incidence of flystrike.

Flystrike occurs annually in most UK sheep flocks, the incidence being highest in warm and humid areas of South West England. It is estimated that about 12,000 sheep die each year in the UK as a result of flystrike (NADIS report, 2005). Flystrike is a major welfare concern and an important cause of ill thrift in affected animals. Furthermore, the disease results in economically significant fleece and hide damage.

An article by leading experts, J. M. Broughan and R. Wall (2007) following a study in South West England during 2002-03 indicated that flystrike was associated with higher mean temperatures among other variables. The article concluded that an increase average ambient temperature was likely to increase the incidence of flystrike.

Bees: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the additional funding made available to the National Bee Health Unit has been allocated for research into alternative treatments for the varroa mite. [231415]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 29 October 2008]:* The additional funding allocated to the National Bee Unit this year was directed at expanding investigations into cases of abnormal colony losses for which there is no ready explanation and to meet demand for increased inspections of bee imports consequential to colony losses.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment. Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department took to encourage uptake for the bluetongue vaccination. [231413]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 29 October 2008]:* DEFRA worked in partnership with the industry to create a strategy for voluntary vaccination, and ensured the availability of vaccine. DEFRA has always encouraged vaccination as the only effective way for individuals to protect the welfare of their animals and their own livelihood. Ministers and the chief veterinary officer have emphasised the importance of vaccinating against bluetongue in the media and in meetings with the industry. DEFRA also supported the industry-led Joint Action Against Bluetongue (JAB) communications campaign which promoted the benefits of vaccinating against bluetongue (under the "Don't hesitate, vaccinate" banner), and highlighted the risks of not doing so.

DEFRA backed up these messages through a communications campaign which ran throughout the summer, using the farming press and local channels such as roadshows and Animal Health communications to stress the importance of vaccination.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229553]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Department's Resource Accounts for financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library or accessed electronically using the following link:

http://defraweb/corporate/finance/resource-accounts/accounts0708/resourceaccounts-0708.pdf#page=27

Inland Waterways

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many residential moorings are registered by the Environment Agency; what their locations are; and how many boats can be moored at each location. [231163]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency does not maintain a register of known residential moorings or information about other boats other than house boats used for residential purposes. As residential use is a matter for the local planning authority, the agency advises these authorities if it detects a potential change of land use from leisure to residential purposes.

National Forest Estate

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the review of the Forest District Strategic Plans on the National Forest Estate to meet the objectives of the revised English Forestry Strategy. [226679]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Forestry Commission is reviewing its approach to Forest District Strategic Plans so that their revision, which is expected to be undertaken in 2009, takes into account changes in national and regional policy, including the Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests.

New Forest National Park Authority

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people are employed in the New Forest National Park Environmental Design Department; and how many of them are *(a)* architects, *(b)* have another professional design qualification and *(c)* are unqualified in environmental design. [230856]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I understand that the New Forest National Park Authority employs three members of staff whose principal role includes environmental design matters. One has a BSc Honours in Construction, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Architectural Conservation; one is a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) qualified Architect, no longer registered; and the third has a Post Graduate Diploma in Building Conservation. In addition these officers draw on advice from the authority's qualified arboriculturalists and Landscape Officer as necessary.

Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in respect of which of his Department's public service agreements rural proofing of departmental policies is stipulated. [230746]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA leads on one cross-government public service agreement (PSA)—to secure a healthy natural environment for today and the future. DEFRA has signed up as a formal delivery partner for the following six PSAs:

Olympics;
Housing;
Child Poverty;
Regional Economic Performance;
International Poverty Reduction; and
Counter-terrorism.

It is a requirement for all new policies and programmes to be subject to an impact assessment which includes rural proofing.

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been paid to regional development agencies for implementation of the Rural Development Programme for England. [230695]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The regional development agencies assumed responsibility for delivery of the social-economic measures of the Rural Development Programme for England from 1 October 2006. RDA operating costs for delivering the RDPE are funded by DEFRA. The amounts set out as follows have been transferred to RDAs:

	£
1 October 2006-31 March 2007	1,806,098
1 April 2007-31 March 2008	3,671,036
1 April 2008-31 March 2009	4,950,000

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what projects have been approved for the Rural Development Programme for England; on what date each was approved; and by which regional development agency in each case. [230696]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table provides details of the projects approved by regional development agencies since the programme was opened for applications under the socio-economic measures:

Regional development agency	*Project/Programme*	*Date approved*
Advantage West Midlands	Certainly Wood	28 August 2008
	RDPE Action Plan for Tourism and Leisure	15 May 2008
	RDPE Action Plan for Food and Drink	15 May 2008
	RDPE Action Plan for Livestock	15 May 2008
	RDPE Action Plan for Environmental Technologies	15 May 2008
	The Leader Approach for the West Midlands (preliminary expenditure)	28 February 2008
	The Leader Approach for the West Midlands (Programme approval)	28 February 2008
East of England Development Agency	Agri-Food Skills—Coordination project	19 June 2008
	Agri-Food Skills—Vocational Skills	19 June 2008
	Agri-Food Skills—Higher Level skills	19 June 2008
	Radwinter Game Handling Facility	5 June 2008
	Woburn Country Foods	9 June 2008
	Camgrain Advanced Processing Centre	4 January 2008
	Regional Woodfuel Supply Chain	6 August 2008
	Chilterns Cross-Border LAG	23 June 2008
	Greensand Ridge	21 May 2008
	The Eastern Plateau	21 May 2008
	Brecks	21 May 2008
	Waveney Valley	21 May 2008
	North Norfolk Coast and Broads	21 May 2008
	Fens Adventurers Partnership	21 May 2008
East Midlands Development Agency	Bolsover and North East Derbyshire	28 January 2008
	Coastal Action Zone Partnership	28 January 2008
	Lindsey Action Zone	28 January 2008
	Peak District Rural Action Zone	28 January 2008
	Acrelands	8 June 2008
	Biomass Glasshouse heating system	5 September 2008
	Bluebell Dairy	8 August 2008
	Centre of Renewable Energy	30 April 2008
	Provision of Production Unit Niche and Novel Crops	4 June 2008

Regional development agency	*Project/Programme*	*Date approved*
	Pump Farm Day Nursery	18 April 2008
	Restoration of Coneygre Farm Quarry	2 September 2008
	Rural Holiday Let and Work/Studio area	18 July 2008
	South Rauceby Water Reservoir	14 October 2008
	Sustainable Water Resource Management System	1 July 2008
	Thorpe Latimer Farm Shop and Butchery	6 August 2008
	Woldgrain Integrated Combined Crop Storage	23 October 2008
North West Development Agency	Livestock Programme Cumbria	22 July 2008
	Fells and Dales Leader group	23 June 2008
	Solway Borders and Eden Leader group	23 June 2008
	Centralised Grains Store feasibility study	22 August 2008
One North East	*Programmes*	
	Micro-enterprise Development	14 April 2008
	LANTRA	5 June 2008
	Bio-energy supply chains	22 April 2008
	Community and Business Assets	7 October 2008
	Projects	
	Wheelbirks ice cream	23 September 2008
	Cold Storage facilities	15 April 2008
	Catering Butchery	7 October 2008
	Egg processing and packaging	28 August 2008
	LEADER—4 Local Action Groups	20 May 2008
South East England Development Agency	Lidsey Reservoir	21 April 2008
	Style Place Farm Reservoir	21 April 2008
	Rbat/Lantra Consortium training project (Landskills SE)	21 April 2008
	Aylesbury Vale and Milton Keynes Leader	8 May 2008
	Chilterns Leader	8 May 2008
	Lodden and Eversley Leader	8 May 2008
	Isle of Wight Leader	8 May 2008
	Kent Downs and Marshes Leader	8 May 2008
	New Forest Leader	8 May 2008
	North Wessex Downs Leader	8 May 2008
	Surrey Hills Leader	8 May 2008
	Sussex Downs and Low Weald Leader	8 May 2008
	Three Harbours and a Coastal Plain Leader	8 May 2008
	Wealden and Rother Rural Partnership Leader	8 May 2008
	West Kent Leader	8 May 2008
	Winchester and South Downs Leader	8 May 2008
	Hidden Britain South East	29 May 2008
	Coldharbour Farm Diversification	29 May 2008
	Mansfields Fruit Packing and Storage Project	29 May 2008
	South Oxfordshire Leader	22 July 2008
	Livestock Health South East training	31 July 2008
	Bowley Farm Irrigation Project	31 July 2008
	Rough House Farm Reservoir	31 July 2008
	Colne Valley Park LAG	31 July 2008
	Newmafruit Fruit Storage and Packing Project	19 September 2008
	Weald Granary Grain Storage	8 October 2008
	Whalley Forestry machinery	8 October 2008
	Torrey Hill Forestry Centre	8 October 2008
South West of England Development Agency	VTS Extension 2008-09 R of R 50 per cent.	15 July 2008
	VTS Extension R of R 50 per cent.	15 July 2008
	VTS Extension 2008-09 R of R 100 per cent.	15 July 2008
	VTS Extension 2008-09 R of R 100 per cent.	15 July 2008
	VTS Extension R of R 50 per cent.	15 July 2008
	VTS extension Cornwall 50 per cent.	15 July 2008
	VTS Extension 2008-09 Cornwall 100 per cent.	15 July 2008
	VTS Extension 2008-09 Cornwall 100 per cent.	15 July 2008
	South West Rural Development Gateway R of R 50 per cent.	22 April 2008
	South West Rural Development Gateway Cornwall 50 per cent.	22 April 2008
	South West Rural Development Gateway R of R 100 per cent.	22 April 2008
	South West Rural Development Gateway Cornwall 100 per cent.	22 April 2008
	South West Rural Development Gateway R of R 75 per cent.	22 April 2008
	South West Rural Development Gateway Cornwall 75 per cent.	22 April 2008
	Sustainable Woodlands South West—R of R	22 September 2008
	CPDS 111 Devon	7 October 2008
	CPDS 111 Gloucestershire	7 October 2008
	CPDS 111 Somerset	7 October 2008
	CPDS 111 Wiltshire	7 October 2008
	CPDS 111 Cornwall	7 October 2008
	CPDS 111 Dorset	7 October 2008
	Sustainable Woodlands South West—Cornwall	22 September 2008
	111 SWHLI Blue Tongue Cornwall	17 June 2008
	SWHLI Regional Advisory Panel—RoR—VM	3 June 2008
	111 SWHLI Blue Tongue VM	17 June 2008
	SWHLI Regional Advisory Panel—Cornwall	3 June 2008
Yorkshire forward	The Coniston Shooting Ground and Golf Target/Archery Range Facilities and Customer Care Project	December 2007
	Hutchinson Roots Farm Shop	December 2007
	YAS Growing Routes	December 2007
	Nostell Estate Office Conversion	December 2007
	Sutton Art Gallery	December 2007
	North Country Primestock Yorkshire Provenance Lamb	February 2008
	Price Dales Mountain Biking	February 2008

Regional development agency	*Project/Programme*	*Date approved*
	Gemmell Clayton Hall Farm AD	February 2008
	Critchlow Dependable Productions Expansion	February 2008
	Burton/Yorkshire Farmers Yorkshire Outdoor Pork	February 2008
	Muntons Malt Supply Chain Ltd.	February 2008
	Hydrodemolition and Surface Preparation Using Robotic Techniques	February 2008
	Upper Denby DC Ltd.	February 2008
	Eggsell Supply Chain	February 2008
	Lyke Wake Walk Room at Ryedale Folk Museum	February 2008
	Share to Farm	February 2008
	Learning To Listen Development Plan	June 2008
	Hinchliffe's Butchers	June 2008
	Retro Ice Cream Parlour with adjoining Seattle-style Coffee Shop	June 2008
	Developing Givendale Prime Beef Brand	June 2008
	Ames Forestry Contracting	June 2008
	Drewton Manor Biomass Installation	August 2008
	Eastern Dales Visitor Centre—feasibility study	March 2008
	Westfields Livery	July 2008
	Robinsons Farm Shop	July 2008
	Free Range Eggs fron Great Ayton	July 2008
	Chilburne Spring Expansion	September 2008
	St. Quintins Dairy	September 2008
	Godbold Blacksmith Expansion	September 2008
	Hare's Leap Farm Shop and Game Dealer	September 2008
	Broom House Guesthouse Expansion	September 2008
	Platt Potato Infrastructure	September 2008
	Forward Farming Storage	September 2008
	Tomlinson Potato Marketing—Whole Crop Marketing	September 2008
	Crowtrees Park Golf Course	September 2008
	Wharfe Valley Oils expansion	September 2008
	Birkwood Plant Training	September 2008
	Farmer Copleys Shop Expansion and Internet Venture	September 2008
	Expansion of Keighley Tree Services	September 2008
	Anaerobic digestion feasibility study at Langlands Farm Farexchange	September 2008
	Brookfield Wind Turbine	July 2008
	Hey Wind Turbine	July 2008
	Caville Hall water harvesting	July 2008
	Platts Rainwater Harvesting and Slurry Separation	July 2008
	Sharp slurry separator	July 2008
	Ewedale Model Village	August 2008
	Yorkshire Energy Solutions	August 2008
	Ryedale Vineyards Winery	August 2008
	Choc-affair	August 2008
	Flying shavings	September 2008
	Marton cum Grafton Village Shop	September 2008
	Farm Resource Efficiency Programme	March 2008
	Rural Business Start-Up	April 2008
	Rural Retail Programme	September 2008
	LandSkills	March 2008

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which projects approved for Rural Development Programme for England funding have yet to receive their funding; and on what date they are likely to receive funding. [230697]

Huw Irranca-Davies: For socio-economic projects under Axis 1 and 3 of the Rural Development Programme for England, payments are made on the basis of claims submitted by project holders and in arrears of eligible expenditure made. A schedule of claims is agreed with each project holder as part of the project. It follows that payments will not be made at the time a project is approved by a Regional Development Agency.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many projects each regional development agency has funded under the *(a)* Axis 1, *(b)* Axis 3 and *(c)* Leader sections of the England Rural Development Programme since 1 January 2007, broken down by projects budgeted at (i) up to £5,000, (ii) £5,001 to £100,000, (iii) £100,001 to £1,000,000 and (iv) over £1,000,000. [229480]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Commitments to new projects under Axis 1, 3 and the Leader Axis of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) only commenced in January 2008 following EU approval of the new programme. Since 1 October 2006, payments have also been made by regional development agencies (RDAs) to projects that were the legacy of the previous England Rural Development Programme (ERDP), funding for which came from the new RDPE budget. That programme closed for new applications in June 2006.

It should also be noted that the RDAs are using a strategic investment approach to delivering the new programme, which includes supporting larger programmes of activity as well as individual projects. Some of the larger programmes will result in further project development and funding.

The following table gives the information on projects which have received, or been approved, for funding, and includes ERDP legacy payments made after 1 January 2007.

Regional development agency		*Up to £5,000*	*£5,001-£100,000*	*£100,001-£1 million*	*£1 million +*
Advantage West Midlands	Axis 1	17	29	6	0
	Axis 3	18	92	7	0
	Leader	—	—	—	—

Regional development agency		*Up to £5,000*	*£5,001-£100,000*	*£100,001-£1 million*	*£1 million +*
East of England Development Agency	Axis 1	11	22	7	4
	Axis 3	1	27	5	0
	Leader	0	0	1	6
East Midlands Development Agency	Axis 1	16	28	8	1
	Axis 3	9	42	9	0
	Leader	0	0	0	4
North West Development Agency	Axis 1	12	35	8	3
	Axis 3	9	32	2	0
	Leader	0	0	0	2
One North East	Axis 1	5	14	7	2
	Axis 3	2	45	9	2
	Leader	0	0	0	4
South East England Development Agency	Axis 1	11	38	13	1
	Axis 3	0	41	5	0
	Leader	0	0	0	14
South West of England Development Agency	Axis 1	2	18	22	1
	Axis 3	1	20	10	0
	Leader	0	0	1	14
Yorkshire Forward	Axis 1	0	32	9	2
	Axis 3	9	69	9	1
	Leader	0	6	0	6

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much each regional development agency has committed to projects under *(a)* Axis 1, *(b)* Axis 3 and *(c)* Leader sections of the England Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) since 1 January 2007, broken down by projects budgeted at (i) up to £5,000, (ii) £5,001 to £100,000, (iii) £100,001 to £1,000,000 and (iv) over £1,000,000; and what proportion of each total represents forward commitments for years three to seven of RDPE. [229481]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Commitments to new projects under Axis 1, 3 and the Leader Axis of the Rural Development Programme for England only commenced in January 2008 following EU approval of the new programme. Since 1 October 2006, payments have also been made by regional development agencies to projects that were the legacy of the previous England Rural Development Programme (ERDP), funding for which came from the new RDPE budget. That programme closed for new applications in June 2006.

The following table gives the information requested and includes legacy commitments made since 1 January 2007. The figures in brackets give the percentage (rounded) of the commitment to be paid in programme years 2009-13.

Regional Development Agency		*Up to £5000*	*(%)*	*£5001 -£100,000*	*(%)*	*£100,001 -£1 million*	*(%)*	*£1 million +*	*(%)*
Advantage West Midlands	Axis 1	42,458	0	1,455,637	8	3,922,002	21	0	
	Axis 3	25,562	0	4,650,208	2	3,270.059	0	1,052,441	0
	Leader	0		0		0		0	
East of England Development Agency	Axis 1	0		58,026	53	611,565	82	11,630,023	93
	Axis 3	0		4,122	1	46,313	0	0	
	Leader	0		0		0		20,100,000	99
East Midlands Development Agency	Axis 1	21,950	0	849,080	25	2,598,363	0	1,487,205	
	Axis 3	26,602	0	1,130,369	2	1,165,546	39	0	

Regional Development Agency		*Up to £5000*	*(%)*	*£5001 -£100,000*	*(%)*	*£100,001 -£1 million*	*(%)*	*£1 million +*	*(%)*
	Leader	0		0		0		7,980,300	100
North West Development Agency	Axis 1	26,231	0	907,641	0	2,107,641	52	5,400,000	93
	Axis 3	19,881	0	862,124	0	25,920	0	0	
	Leader	0		0		0		3,200,000	94
One North East	Axis 1	9000	11	643,000	87	1,480,000	81	2,370,000	100
	Axis 3	5000	0	1,874,000	0	1,235,000	12	3,350,000	100
	Leader	0		0		0		4,500,000	100
South East England Development Agency	Axis 1	23,654	0	1,641,631	15	4,298,306	23	2,400,000	70
	Axis 3	0		1,664,803	3	735,777	10	0	
	Leader	0		0		0		29,400,000	92
South West of England Development Agency	Axis 1	21,456	0	716,777	7	4,791,564	50	1,086,018	54
	Axis 3	20,452	0	1,162,532	10	689,143	9	0	
	Leader	0		0		500,000	100	32,550,000	100
Yorkshire Forward	Axis 1	0		890,000	52	2,420,000	68	4,860,000	83
	Axis 3	3000	100	1,830,000	50	1,690,000	27	3,620,000	79
	Leader	0		110,000	0	0		16,900,000	100

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much each regional development agency has received from the Regional Development Programme for England since the inception of the 2000 to 2006 programme, broken down by programme year. [229482]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The 2000-06 England Rural Development Programme was delivered by the then DEFRA Rural Development Service and, as such, no funding under that programme was allocated to regional development agencies (RDAs). Since 1 October 2006, RDAs have taken over delivery of the legacy spend on ERDP schemes which closed to new applicants in 2006.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which projects have received Rural Development Programme for England funding since 1 January 2007, broken down by regional development agency. [229483]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of projects funded under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) since 1 January 2007 includes both new projects and programmes approved by regional development agencies, as well as projects that were the legacy of the previous England Rural Development Programme, thus amounting to over 1,000 projects.

Details of all projects receiving funding through rural development programmes will be published annually on the DEFRA website, and those projects funded from 1 January 2007 to 15 October 2007 (linked to the European Community's financial year) can be found at

www.cap-payments.defra.gov.uk.

Satellites

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what use his Department makes of data obtained from earth observation satellites; and what payment is made for such data, where applicable. [230461]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and its delivery bodies use high resolution satellite data for the verification of agricultural subsidy claims under the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). The data used are supplied directly by the European Commission so there is no cost to the Department.

DEFRA also uses satellite data as part of the UK Countryside Survey in order to produce a national Land Cover Map. The Land Cover Map is a partnership project between DEFRA, the Natural Environment Research Council and the devolved Administrations. Some of the satellite data for the Land Cover Map are provided free of charge by the European Commission. DEFRA and partners have agreed a budget of £110,000 for the purchase of additional data.

Satellite derived data are also used on an ad-hoc basis in various research projects funded by DEFRA. DEFRA does not hold data centrally on the costs of the satellite data used within these research projects.

Smuggling: Wildlife

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to combat the illegal trade in wildlife over the internet. [231134]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the UK, the Government are working with the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU), HM Revenue and Customs and the police to establish the extent of trade taking place over the internet that is illegal, and to find effective ways to tackle this. The issue is one of five priority areas for consideration by the NWCU as part of its delivery of obligations to assist the Government to apply the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Additionally, DEFRA has been working with the trade, website owners, enforcement experts and other stakeholders to establish a Code of Practice for internet providers and users.

The issue, however, transcends borders and we believe a global approach is required. The UK was instrumental in proposing that CITES convenes a special workshop to consider the issue, and provided funds for this to occur. I am pleased to report that this meeting will take place next February in Canada. The workshop will review what is known about the scale and nature of illegal internet trade in wildlife globally and then consider ways to tackle illegal activity there. In addition to providing financial support to the workshop we have also contributed evidence of our current knowledge of illegal wildlife trade over the internet.

South West Water Authority

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2423W, on the South West Water Authority, (1) whether regions other than the South West maintain residual water authorities; [229423]

(2) what residual matters relating to the South West Water Authority have yet to be resolved; and if he will make a statement. [229424]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 October 2008]*: The South West water authority is the only remaining residual water authority in England and Wales.

The only residual matter preventing the winding up of the South West water authority is the incident which occurred at the Lowermoor Water Treatment Works in July 1988. The authority will not be wound up until the Government are satisfied that any outstanding matters relating to that incident have been resolved.

Water Supply

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to create a national water grid within the UK. [227917]

Jane Kennedy: A good deal of water is already transferred within water companies' areas of operation to give individual companies greater flexibility to meet local shortages. Longer distance links have long been established between, for example, Wales and the West Midlands and South East Lancashire, the Lake District and Lancashire, and from the Fenland watercourses to Essex.

The idea of a national grid system for water was discussed at the Secretary of State's Water Meeting during summer 2006 attended by representatives from across the water industry.

There was unanimous agreement that a national water grid was not feasible due to its disproportionate and unjustified cost, both for the environment and for water bills, compared with its possible benefits.

This view is underpinned in the Environment Agency report 'Do we need large-scale water transfers for south-east England?', which was published in September 2006. The report found no evidence for the need for such large-scale transfer and was considered to be more expensive and environmentally damaging than the measures already in the south-east water companies' water resources plans.

The Environment Agency, in consultation with Ofwat, is able to propose to a water company that it enters into a bulk supply agreement with another water company, where it is necessary to secure the proper use of water resources.

TREASURY

Financial Markets

10. **Mr. Geoffrey Robinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of turbulence in the financial markets on the economy. [231523]

Mr. Timms: The Government will update their forecasts for the UK and world economies in the forthcoming pre-Budget report as normal, based on all relevant factors.

Public Borrowing

11. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by how much he plans to increase public borrowing over the next 12 months. [231524]

Yvette Cooper: The Chancellor of the Exchequer will provide an update on the Government's fiscal position, including forecasts for the public finances, in the autumn pre-Budget report.

15. **Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely impact of recession on Government borrowing. [231530]

Yvette Cooper: The Chancellor of the Exchequer will provide an update on the Government's economic and fiscal forecasts in the autumn pre-Budget report.

Banking System

12. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission an independent inquiry into the causes of the recent turbulence in the banking system. [231526]

Ian Pearson: The on-going turbulence has affected financial markets around the world and requires an international response. In April this year the Financial Stability Forum provided the G7 with a detailed report on the causes of the crisis and a comprehensive set of recommendations for strengthening the financial system for the future. Going forwards, the FSF should continue to play a central role in shaping the international response to the crisis.

Bank Recapitalisation

13. **Lyn Brown:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the policies of banks which have been recapitalised with public funds on providing credit to small businesses. [231528]

16. **Mr. Love:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the policies of banks which have been recapitalised with public funds on providing credit to small businesses. [231531]

Ian Pearson: The measures that the Government announced on 8 and 13 of October included agreements with the banks who used the Bank Reconstruction Fund that over the next three years they would maintain the availability and active marketing of competitively-priced lending to small businesses at 2007 levels.

Small Businesses

14. **Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward measures to reduce the burden of tax on small businesses. [231529]

Ian Pearson: The Government have acted in recent weeks to provide support to small businesses, including aiming to make payments to small businesses within 10 days. The measures that the Government announced on 8 and 13 October included agreements with the banks who used the Bank Reconstruction Fund that over the next three years they would maintain the availability and active marketing of competitively priced lending to small businesses at 2007 levels.

The Government keeps all taxes under review and considers fiscal measures as part of the PBR and Budget process.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent fiscal steps he has taken to assist small businesses in the current economic situation. [231515]

Mr. Timms: In addition to the measures set out in the 2008 Enterprise Strategy, Government have announced a package to help smaller businesses including:

£350 million to support smaller employers to train their workforces;

A target to pay suppliers as soon as possible and within 10 days;

Free "Health Checks" for businesses through Business Link;

Provision of new finance guides produced by the Institute of Credit Management.

Repossessions

17. **Damian Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the housing market of the repossession policies of those banks in public ownership. [231533]

Yvette Cooper: On 8 October this year the Government announced a package of measures to support stability of the financial system, protect ordinary consumers and businesses, and to safeguard the interests of the taxpayer.

As part of their investment, the Government agreed a range of commitments with the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme.

These include agreements to help individuals struggling with their mortgage payments stay in their homes.

Government Expenditure

18. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce unnecessary expenditure across Government. [231534]

Yvette Cooper: Having already secured more than £23 billion of efficiency gains through the Gershon Efficiency Programme, Departments and local authorities are currently working to deliver a further £30 billion package of cash-releasing savings, releasing resources for investment in our core public services.

The Operational Efficiency Programme and Public Value Programme, launched earlier this year, are exploring the scope for further savings to ensure taxpayers receive maximum value for money.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure that the potential for early intervention is taken into account across all spending decisions in the next Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [231519]

Yvette Cooper: The Treasury prioritise a diverse range of policy pressures at each Spending Review. In the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, and subsequently (for example in the Children's Plan), Government have expanded investment in early intervention. This includes further investment in Children's Centres and the free early education offer, and on initiative such as Family Nurse Partnerships; Family Intervention Projects; and Targeted Youth Support.

Bank Services: Small Businesses

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the policies on providing credit to small businesses of banks which have been recapitalised with public funds. [231514]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer my right hon. Friend the Chancellor gave the hon. Member for Islwyn (Mr. Touhig) on the Floor of the House earlier today.

Banks

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what day he expects the share subscriptions and share placings relating to the £9 billion preference shares and the £28 billion of ordinary shares in HBOS plc, Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc and Lloyds TSB Group plc by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to be completed. [231532]

Ian Pearson: The firms are currently finalising their timetable for the shareholder approval and subsequent share issue.

Corporation Tax: Small Businesses

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when his most recent estimate of the predicted additional Exchequer revenue from the phased increase of the small companies rate of corporation tax is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; [231770]

(2) what estimate he has made of the additional Exchequer revenue likely to accrue from the phased increase of the small companies rate of corporation tax from 19 per cent. to 22 per cent. in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [231771]

Mr. Timms: In line with the Code for Fiscal Stability, at Budget 2007 the Government published the impact on Exchequer revenues of the increase in the small companies rate for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. These can be found in Table 1.2 of the Budget 2007 document.

The forecasts of receipts of corporation tax will be updated in the pre-Budget report.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of companies paying the small companies rate of corporation tax which paid annual corporation tax payments in the range of *(a)* £0 to £10,000, *(b)* £10,001 to £20,000, *(c)* £20,001 to £30,000, *(d)* £30,001 to £40,000, *(e)* £40,001 to £50,000 and *(f)* £50,001 and above in each of the last four years; [231772]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of companies paying the small companies rate of corporation tax which are expected to pay annual corporation tax payments to the Treasury in the range of *(a)* £0 to £10,000, *(b)* £10,001 to £20,000, *(c)* £20,001 to £30,000, *(d)* £30,001 to £40,000, *(e)* £40,001 to £50,000 and *(f)* £50,001 and above in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [231773]

Mr. Timms: Published National Statistics showing the total number of companies paying at the Small Companies' Rate are available for 1998-99 to 2005-06:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate tax/11-3-corporation-tax.pdf

National statistics depicting the total number of taxpayers by size of liability are also available for 1998-99 to 2005-06:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate tax/table11-6.xls

This table is not available for companies paying the small companies rate only. Updates of both tables for liabilities due in the financial year 2006-07 will be published on 31 October 2008.

Corporation Tax receipts are forecast on an aggregate basis and published in the Budget and pre-Budget reports. It is not possible to provide a separate forecast for numbers and amounts at small companies rate.

Departmental Committees

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what external representatives sit on each of his Department's committees. [231754]

Angela Eagle: Membership of Treasury's Board and its committees is detailed in Treasury's Annual Report. The most recent annual report may be found at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/5121.htm

Subsequent to the publication of the report, three new independent members have been appointed to the Treasury Board—Dame Deirdre Hutton CBE, Sir Callum McCarthy and Michael O'Higgins. Dame Deirdre, Sir Callum and Michael succeed Sir Peter Gershon CBE and Sir David Varney, who have stepped down after reaching the end of their terms, and Stella Manzie CBE, who is now Director General Finance and Corporate Services in the Scottish Executive. More information on the appointments may be found at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_87_08.htm. The non-executive members of Treasury's Board do not represent other organisations. Further details about Treasury committees—including advisory groups and other bodies—may be found on its website

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

Gift Aid

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance HM Revenue and Customs have issued on the eligibility of small charities for gift aid. [231527]

Mr. Timms: HMRC has recently updated its customer guidance on gift aid, available via HMRC and DirectGov websites.

HMRC has also launched the gift aid toolkit, containing clear, basic guidance, templates, an interactive claim form and other materials to help charities get started with and use gift aid. The toolkit will be promoted by HMRC and statutory charity regulators ensuring that as many small charities as possible find out about the toolkit and can obtain a copy.

Halifax Bank of Scotland: Yorkshire

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made, together with Yorkshire Forward, in safeguarding HBOS jobs in Halifax. [231518]

Ian Pearson: Following a meeting with the Chancellor, Yorkshire Forward has convened a taskforce to begin work co-ordinating the region's response to potential job losses in the financial services sector. This taskforce includes representatives from the region's financial services industry, local authority chief executives, the TUC and regional skills experts.

As this is a commercial decision for Lloyds TSB and HBOS, Yorkshire Forward can only await shareholder ratification. However, Yorkshire Forward is making Halifax's, and the wider regional case, to both banks in meetings and has also produced a commercial case which demonstrates the critical mass the region has in terms of the financial services sector and how this would complement the new organisation's commercial objectives, if shareholders were to ratify the merger. This will be presented to Sir Victor Blank, Chairman of Lloyds TSB, next week.

Insurance

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's estimate is of the potential liability of the British insurance industry in the current financial situation. [228999]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 October 2008]:* Many insurance policies, for example motor or annuity policies, do not have defined liabilities. As such, it is not possible to estimate the liabilities of the UK insurance industry.

Lehman Brothers

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings his predecessor held with Lehman Brothers in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007; what the purpose of each meeting was; and if he will place on his Department's website the text of the speech made by his predecessor when he opened the Lehman Brothers headquarters at Canary Wharf in 2004. [225950]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor of the Exchequer and other Treasury Ministers regularly meet with representatives of the banking industry and with other organisations in both public and private sectors. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide such details.

Treasury Ministers' speeches, including the speech to which the hon. Member refers are routinely placed on the Treasury's website.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on Exchequer receipts in each of the next 10 financial years of the entry into force of clause 138 of the Finance Bill, with reference to rebates to vehicle excise duty. [231774]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 593W.

Public Expenditure: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sums will be transferred to the Scottish Executive under the Barnett formula provisions for the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources for the period 2008 to 2011. [230029]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The Barnett formula determines changes in the Departmental Expenditure Limit of the Scottish Executive. It is then for the Scottish Executive to decide how it allocates its block budget. The Departmental Expenditure Limits for the period 2008 to 2011 was set in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Public Finance

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on turbulence in the global financial markets. [231535]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor continues to have regular discussions with international and European colleagues on the appropriate international response to market turbulence. The UK is leading international efforts to stabilise the global financial system and reform it for the future. Most recently, the Chancellor attended the G7 Finance Ministers Meeting on 10 October and agreed G7 Action Plan, in which Ministers committed to take coordinated actions to stabilize financial markets and restore the flow of credit.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the levels of Government *(a)* borrowing and *(b)* debt were in each of the last three months. [231641]

Yvette Cooper: The independent Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes monthly public finances data. These updates can be found at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The ONS data are also published on the HM Treasury website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/statistics_public_finance.htm

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he made of the level of *(a)* public sector net debt and *(b)* the current deficit; what assessment his Department has undertaken of performance in other countries on these indicators for benchmarking purposes; and if he will make a statement. [231950]

Yvette Cooper: A full range of fiscal forecasts was last published in Budget 2008. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will provide an update on the Government's fiscal position, including forecasts for the public finances, in the autumn Pre-Budget Report.

Both the IMF and OECD publish international comparisons of deficits and debt. For more information see:

www.imf.org

and

www.oecd.org

Public Value Programme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on the Public Value Programme; and if he will make a statement. [231780]

Yvette Cooper: Budget 2008 announced that the Public Value Programme would look at all areas of major public spending to identify where there is scope to improve value for money. The Public Value Programme will inform the Government's framework for value for money in the next CSR period which will be set out at Budget 2009. The Government will provide an update on the progress of the Public Value Programme in due course.

Revenue and Customs: North West

Mr. Pope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of staff have left the employment of HM Revenue and Customs at each of its offices in the North West since April 2006. [222687]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold leavers data by location for 2006-07. The table showing the requested information for 2007-08 is shown as follows.

Town	*Building*	*Number of staff who left*	*Percentage of all staff*
Accrington	Castle House Accrington	12	10.4
Altrincham	Roberts House	4	5.4
Ashton under Lyne	Crown Buildings Ashton under Lyne	3	4.1
Barrow in Furness	Furness House	6	13.3
Birkenhead	Birchen House	20	16
Blackburn	Chaucers Walk	7	5.7
Blackpool	Mexford House	27	10.2
	Norcross	0	0
	Ryscar House	2	1.7
	Warbreck House	0	0
Bolton	Elizabeth House Bolton	0	0
	Stone Cross House	18	7.5
Bootle	Litherland House	26	7.3
	Pinnacle House	0	0
	St. Johns House Bootle	20	3.5
	St. Martins House	1	66.7
	The Triad	82	7.9
Burnley	Towneley House	11	24.4
Bury	Minden Place	3	9.4
Carlisle	Stocklund House	4	5
Cheadle	Boundary House	5	3.9
Chester	Eden House	4	7.3
	Hamilton House	5	7.9
	Norroy House	0	0
Chorley	Lingmell House	3	3.8
Crewe	Crewe House	9	10.4
Kendal	Eskdale House	2	4.1
	Kentmere House	0	0
Lancaster	Charter House Lancaster	10	20.8
Leigh	Boardman House	12	19.5
Liverpool	Comben House	2	5.7
	Graeme House	45	9.9
	Imperial Court Building	32	5.7
	Norwich House	2	4.8
	Queens Dock	222	11.8
	Regian House	42	7.8
	Royal Seaforth Dock	1	2.2
Macclesfield	Craven House	4	9.5
Manchester	Albert Bridge House	47	7.6
	Royal Exchange	2	16
	Terminal 1 Manchester Airport	10	4.8
	West Point Manchester	2	14.3
	Westminster House	1	6.3
Nelson	Trafalgar House	0	0
Northwich	Dane House	4	9
Oldham	Phoenix House Oldham	8	7.3
Penrith	Voreda House	0	0
Preston	Charles House Preston	11	4.1
	Diadem House	7	4.1
	Government Buildings Preston	6	4.7
	St. Marks and St. Marys House	20	3.1
	The Guild Centre	45	5.4
	Unicentre	46	8.3
Rochdale	Newgate House	4	10.3
Salford	Anchorage 2	4	3
	Custom House Salford	22	6.2
	Highland House	0	0
	Ralli Quays	27	5.1
	Trinity Bridge House	133	7.1
Southport	The Dukes House	16	20
St. Annes	Petros House	1	3.1
St. Helens	63 College Street	14	9.8
Stockport	Archer House	27	6.9
	Wellesley House	0	0
Warrington	Mersey Bank House	6	3.6
Whitehaven	Blencathra House	3	4.9
Widnes	1 Kingsway House	13	15.6
Wigan	Bridgeman House	18	30.3
	Lingate House	2	3.7

Tax Credit

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax credit referrals were taken up by the Independent Adjudicator in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; [230643]

(2) what consideration he has given to the allocation of additional staff to deal with the number of tax credit cases referred to the Independent Adjudicator; [230644]

(3) what the average time taken by the Independent Adjudicator to process tax credit referrals was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [230645]

Mr. Timms: Information on the Adjudicator's Office is published in her annual reports which are available at:

www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk/publications.htm

Her office took up 1,541 tax credits referrals in the year to 30 September 2008.

The Adjudicator's Annual Report for 2008 explained her office was in the process of setting up a new team of Adjudication Officers in Derby. That office is now up and running and fully operational.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of time taken by HM Revenue and Customs to provide substantive responses to requests for information made by the Independent Adjudicator was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [230646]

Mr. Timms: In the 12 months to 30 September 2008, the average time taken for HMRC to deal with the request for an initial report for all cases was 15 weeks.

Taxation: Sports

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many sports clubs had community amateur sports club status removed in each of the last six months, broken down by *(a)* sport and *(b)* region; [225824]

(2) which local amateur sports clubs in Bassetlaw have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused community amateur sports club status since 2002; [225825]

(3) how many local amateur sports clubs *(a)* applied for community amateur sports club (CASC) status and *(b)* were granted CASC status in each year since 2002, broken down by (i) sport and (ii) parliamentary constituency. [225826]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have removed one club from the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) register in the last six months following the club's dissolution.

HMRC do not separately identify CASCs by constituency. As of 30 October 2008, according to HMRC records, there are 78 registered CASCs with a Nottinghamshire postcode.

At the end of August 2008 there were 4,965 sports clubs registered with HMRC as CASCs. A list of registered clubs is published on the HMRC website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/CASC/clubs.htm.

HMRC does not hold figures on numbers of CASC registrations broken down by sport.

Unemployment

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions he has made about levels of unemployment over the next three years for the purposes of calculating the public finances. [231636]

Angela Eagle: The assumption for UK claimant count unemployment used for the public finance projections is based on an average of independent external forecasts and audited by the National Audit Office. This is an assumption for the purposes of the public finance forecast and is not the Treasury's economic forecast.

For Budget 2008, details of the assumption can be found in box C1, in Chapter C on the public finances, in the Budget 2008 document.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [228667]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: The Department currently sponsors seven executive non-departmental public bodies, as follows:

Non-departmental public body	*Website*
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	http://www.childmaintenance.org/pdf/CMEC_BP_web_.pdf
Health and Safety Executive	http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmworpen/837/83705.htm (Ref 88) http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/strategiesandplans/bplan0809.pdf
Independent Living Funds (GB and NI)	http://www.ilf.org.uk/cms_media/files/final_ilf_press_release_8.pdf
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority	http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2008/DEP2008-1372.doc
The Pensions Advisory Service	http://www.pensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk/publications/tpas_reports/documenta/CorporatePlan2008-2001secondversion.pdf
The Pensions Regulator	http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/pdf/CorporatePlan2008.pdf
Working Ventures UK Limited	http://www.wvuk.co.uk/index.php?page=publications#p66

I refer the hon. Member to non-departmental public bodies via the links in the table. Available information on funding may be found in documents such as the bodies' reports, press release, corporate or business plans.

The above links will take the hon. Member to the sections of the NDPB websites containing the latest published figures; these do not all provide in year profiles of funding for 2008-09 to 2010-11 as individual allocations have not been made beyond 2008-09 in all cases. Where negotiations are ongoing and figures have not been finalised a link has been provided to the location we expect the information to be published.

It is worth noting that 2008-09 Grant-in-aid figures are available in DWP's main supply estimate available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0708/hc04/0479/0479.pdf

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost to his Department. [226643]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows.

End of year performance bonuses

DWP employees in pay bands below the senior civil service are eligible for an annual individual performance bonus if they attain a "Top", "Higher" or "Majority" rating under the annual performance and development system. The amount of bonus awarded is differentiated on the basis of employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the senior civil service end of year bonuses are determined on an individual basis by the relevant DWP SCS Pay Committee.

Performance awards from the year 2007-08 were payable in July of the financial year 2008-09. A total of £23.32 million has been paid. This is broken down as follows:

Table 1—Department total

Financial year	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Total number of recipients*
2008-09	23.32	107,726

Table 2—Total below SCS

Financial year	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Total number of recipients*
2008-09	21.50	107,518

Table 3—Total SCS

Financial year	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Total number of recipients*
2008-09	1.82	208

Notes:
1. The information in tables 1 and 2 is based on the numbers of employees recorded on the DWP payroll systems as having received a qualifying performance mark. These are headcount.
2. Some individuals may have received more than one type of bonus payment in the year, which is why the information has been presented separately and not as an aggregated total.
3. The performance bonus is paid in the financial year following the performance year of 1 April to 31 March.
4. The total amount paid includes Employers National Insurance Contribution (ERNIC).
5. These figures are the best available.

Special bonus and voucher payments

Individuals may also be entitled to special bonus payments either as cash or vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year and are not linked to the annual pay award.

The cost in a typical year for cash bonuses is around £2.7 million with payments made to approximately 11,250 individuals (based on 2007-08 payments).

The cost for voucher payments was £1.77 million in 2007-08. 31,237 vouchers were issued, however some individuals might have received more than one voucher.

Departmental Responsibilities

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on allowing its staff to attend meetings that they are not required to attend as part of their departmental duties, during the working day and outside his Department's premises; and whether attempts are made to minimise the number of staff attending such meetings. [230467]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The Department has a responsibility to provide an effective service for its customers and ensure business continuity. Consequently, employees wishing to attend meetings not connected with their duties during the working day would be expected to apply for time off and to attend any such meetings in their own time. Time off may be restricted or refused if necessary.

On occasion, there are specific scheduled meetings arranged by departmentally recognised trade unions such as branch Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and these meetings may take place either on or off the Department's premises. Managers may grant union members reasonable time away from their desks to attend. However, they would use their discretion in restricting the number of attendees so that the delivery of the services provided by the Department would not be compromised.

In addition, the Department makes provision for employees to take special leave. This enables employees to serve on certain public or community bodies, i.e. as members of a local authority, magistrates, mayors, school or college governors, jury members or members of the Territorial Army, reserve forces or cadet forces. Special leave can be either paid or unpaid depending on the role and individual circumstances. Again, time off may be restricted or refused so that the delivery of the services provided by the Department would not be compromised.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 65W, on incapacity benefit: applications, how many new claims for incapacity benefit were made by those aged *(a)* under 25, *(b)* under 35, *(c)* between 25 and 44 and *(d)* between 45 and 65 years in each year since 1997. [226137]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* Over this period the number of people starting a claim for incapacity benefits has generally been falling. Since 2003 the number of people leaving has exceeded the number of people joining incapacity benefits resulting in an overall reduction in the number of people on incapacity benefits. This may be driven in part by Pathways to Work which has now helped more than 94,000 people into employment.

The available information on incapacity benefits commencements is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance commencements by age: Great Britain

	Under 25	*Under 35*	*Between 25 and 44*	*Between 45 and 65*
1998	136,900	322,900	360,500	351,600
1999	132,900	304,700	343,100	339,300
2000	128,900	291,200	333,000	329,900
2001	134,900	282,100	309,900	317,700
2002	128,400	271,400	301,600	296,400
2003	125,400	261,900	291,500	290,800
2004	121,000	248,200	277,300	275,300
2005	108,600	225,100	257,900	259,800
2006	106,400	218,600	249,300	248,300
2007	112,000	225,500	256,400	248,100

Notes:
1. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures contain overlaps of commencements where a claimant is aged between 16 and 35.
4. The yearly figures are compiled from quarterly data starting from 1 December in the previous year.
5. Figures include those on IB credits only, who may also claim income support on grounds of sickness or disability.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

Jobcentres

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what jobcentres he has visited since taking up his post. [225572]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* Since becoming Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend has visited Stalybridge, Redbridge, Glasgow City, Nottingham Station Street, Glossop and Kentish Town jobcentres.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he intends to respond to the letter to him dated 12 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr P. Meakin. [231189]

Jonathan Shaw: A reply was sent to the right hon. Member on 27 October 2008.

National Insurance: Migrant Workers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many migrant workers have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received national insurance cards in the last five years. [225481]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the number of applications made is not available.

A national insurance card is not automatically issued for every national insurance number registered. The available information on the number of national insurance registrations is provided in the following table:

Registrations of national insurance numbers to overseas nationals

Year of registration	*Thousand*
2003-04	373.50
2004-05	435.35
2005-06	663.06
2006-07	705.84
2007-08	733.09

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 10 and displayed in thousands.
2. Financial years used.
3. Figures provided do not include national insurance numbers issued to young foreign nationals under the juvenile registration process.
4. Figures are on registrations for any purpose not specifically for the purpose of employment.
5. The information is published on the DWP website at http://83.244.183.180/mgw/final/finyr/ccsex/a_stock_r_finyr_c_ccsex_apr08.htm

Source:
100 per cent. DWP extract from national insurance recording system at 29 July 2008.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to provide enhanced financial assistance to families with disabled children to reflect recent trends in fuel and food prices. [226723]

Jonathan Shaw: Assistance is available through disability benefits and the disability premium in income-related benefits in recognition of the extra costs, including heating, which disabled children may have.

Help towards the extra costs of disability, including domestic fuel, is provided through the care and mobility components in disability living allowance (DLA). Depending on the rates payable, DLA can be worth up to £113.75 a week. DLA is increased in April each year. The level of the uprating is calculated using the increase in the retail prices index for the 12 months ending in the preceding September.

Families with disabled children may be entitled to the disability and severe disability elements in the tax credits system, in addition to any DLA received. Families in receipt of income support may also get cold weather payments in periods of very cold weather.

We have no proposals for further enhancing financial assistance to families with disabled children.

Unemployment Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what forecast he has made of total expenditure on *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* income support, *(c)* employment and support allowance and *(d)* Pathways to Work in each of the next five years. [228495]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The planned spending for Pathways to Work is:

	£ million
2008-09	280
2009-10	380
2010-11	380

Figures provided, particularly for 2009-10 and 2010-11, are indicative allocations based on current assumptions and are subject to change. Forecasted expenditure of Pathways to Work can only be provided to 2010-11 as beyond this the programme expenditure is dependent on policy and commercial assumptions which are subject to substantial change.

The available information on forecasts of total expenditure on incapacity benefit, income support, and employment and support allowance is in the following tables.

Benefit expenditure. Great Britain (real terms 2008-09 prices)

£ million

	Income support[1]	*Incapacity benefit*	*Employment and support allowance—contribution based*	*Employment and support allowance—income based*
2008-09	7,727	6,212	201	227
2009-10	6,008	5,422	642	861
2010-11	5,141	4,660	1,106	1,581
2011-12	4,379	4,095	1,480	2,222
2012-13	3,916	3,504	1,813	2,746

Benefit expenditure. Great Britain (nominal terms)

£ million

	Income support[1]	*Incapacity benefit*	*Employment and support allowance—contribution based*	*Employment and support allowance—income based*
2008-09	7,727	6,212	201	227
2009-10	6,173	5,571	660	885
2010-11	5,428	4,920	1,168	1,669
2011-12	4,751	4,443	1,605	2,410
2012-13	4,365	3,906	2,021	3,061

[1] Income support figures are for all income support expenditure not just income support (incapacity benefit).

Notes:
1. Figures for 2008-09 to 2010-11 are consistent with Budget 2008 Government spending plans. Figures for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are projections, based on Budget 2008 figures, produced for the introduction of employment and support allowance.
2. Figures are on a resource accounting and budgeting basis. There may be differences between figures quoted in these tables and those quoted in Department for Work and Pensions Accounts.
3. Real terms have been calculated using Gross Domestic Product deflators updated after the 2008 Budget Report on 12 March 2008.

Source:
DWP Forecasts and Projections

TRANSPORT

Buses: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received from local authorities in Lancashire on the adequacy of grant funding for the free off-peak local bus travel scheme; and if he will make a statement. [230567]

Paul Clark: Lancashire county council have written to the Secretary of State to request a meeting to discuss the grant funding. Three local MPs have also written to the Department about this issue, enclosing the letter from the county council.

Crossrail: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial agreement he has reached with BAA and Transport for London on the funding of Crossrail. [230061]

Paul Clark: A Heads of Terms agreement was entered into between Department for Transport (DfT) and Transport for London (TfL) about the funding and governance of the Crossrail project in November 2007. Since then, DfT has been holding discussions with TfL about the detailed arrangements for the funding of the project and discussions have been held with key beneficiaries of Crossrail, including British Aviation Authority (BAA), about financial contributions. The discussions with TfL and BAA are at an advanced stage and should be finalised shortly.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* provided for Crossrail from (i) BAA, (ii) Transport for London and (iii) London businesses. [230062]

Paul Clark: The funding for Crossrail was announced by the Prime Minister on 5 October 2007. Funding will be split roughly three ways; between the Government, Crossrail fare payers and London businesses. Details of the contributions expected to be made were included in a Heads of Terms agreement signed in November 2007 between Department for Transport (DfT) and Transport for London (TfL).

The Heads of Terms agreement can be viewed on the DfT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/165234/302038/headsofterms.pdf

Discussions between DfT and British Aviation Authority (BAA) about a funding contribution towards the cost of Crossrail are at an advanced stage and should be finalised shortly.

Under the Heads of Terms agreement, TfL is responsible for underwriting £7.7 billion of the Crossrail project's £15.9 billion estimated capital cost. This includes a contribution from fare payers but also covers the business contributions in the form of the proposed business rate supplement, contributions from property development around stations, the use of the existing section 106 mechanism and possibly a mechanism to extract planning gains. TfL is also funding the costs of Cross London Rail Links Ltd. during 2008-09.

The Heads of Terms agreement assumes considerable contributions from key beneficiaries of Crossrail. The City of London corporation has committed to make a significant contribution and to collect voluntary contributions from businesses across London. An in-principle agreement has been reached with Berkeley Homes for them to construct, at their own cost and risk, a station box at Woolwich. In addition, terms have been agreed with Canary Wharf Group for a significant contribution to the project, the details of which are under negotiation.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230201]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 882W.

The Department has a range of penalties for staff found to have committed disciplinary offences from a warning to dismissal depending on the case. All of these have been used in the past.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of his Department's public-private partnerships and private finance initiative schemes which *(a)* have begun and *(b)* are planned have as a private partner (i) an Icelandic bank and (ii) a UK bank which has been part-nationalised. [229949]

Mr. Hoon: None of the planned or ongoing Department for Transport PFI Special Purpose Vehicle equity providers are Icelandic banks or part-nationalised UK banks. The Department does not retain information on the senior lenders to the Special Purpose Vehicles.

First Great Western

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the performance of First Great Western against the objectives of its remedial plan; and if he will make a statement. [229843]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport reviews First Great Western's performance in reducing cancellations every four weeks against the numbers of cancellations allowed by the Remedial Agreement. First Great Western has made substantial reductions in the numbers of cancellations it causes. First Great Western remains within the terms of the Remedial Agreement.

While the Remedial Agreement focuses on cancellations, there have also been improvements in First Great Western punctuality as shown by the Public Performance Measure ('PPM').

Government Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to ensure that all Departments use British-built cars. [230421]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Each Department is responsible for setting its own criteria for the purchase and hire of the vehicles it uses.

The purchase or hire by Government Departments of cars and other vehicles is subject to the Suppliers Directive (93/36/EC as last amended by Directive 97/52/EC). Together with the relevant Remedies Directive (89/665/EEC), the Suppliers Directive has been given effect in the UK by the Public Supply Contract Regulations (SI.1995/201, last amended by SI.2000/2009).

National Express

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he or his officials last met representatives of National Express North Eastern to discuss the provisions of its franchise agreement. [231565]

Paul Clark: Department for Transport officials routinely meet train operating companies to discuss a range of issues on an ongoing basis. However, under the franchise agreement a franchise performance meeting between DFT officials and franchised train operating companies must be held once in each reporting period (every four weeks). The last such meeting with National Express East Coast took place on 9 October 2008.

Official Cars: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers has been in the last 12 months, broken down by Department. [231377]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency does not provide official cars for special advisers.

Parking: Disabled

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been *(a)* detected and *(b)* reprimanded for inappropriate use of disabled badges in each of the last 10 years. [229845]

Paul Clark: This information is not available. However, from this year, we are asking local authorities to provide annual reports on the number of people prosecuted for abuse of the Blue Badge (disabled parking) Scheme. Headline figures from this survey will be published on the Department for Transport website from 20 November.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many powers of entry have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* abolished by his Department through legislation since 1997. [228158]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Coaker) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 451-52W.

Railways: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department collects on proposed penalty fare schemes by train operating companies before approving them. [230060]

Paul Clark: The 2002 Penalty Fares Rules and Policy document sets this out, and many other matters relating to national rail penalty fare schemes in detail. A link to the full version of this document may be found on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/legislation/pf/

Railways: Overcrowding

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department and its predecessors have taken to alleviate congestion on trains in the last 10 years; and what steps it plans to take. [229847]

Paul Clark: Over the past 10 years, the initiatives taken to increase rail capacity and reduce train congestion include the West Coast Mainline upgrade and increases in capacity provided through new rail franchises and new rolling stock. Further commitments are set out in the High Level Output Specification published in July 2007.

Railways: Passengers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail passengers there were in each year since 1997. [232025]

Paul Clark: Statistics on rail passenger numbers are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the National Rail Trends Yearbook, which is available in the House Library, or from the ORR website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Railways: South West

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the change in train passenger numbers has been in the South West since 2002-03; what change was predicted in the Strategic Rail Authorities' Route Utilisation Strategy prediction of 2005; and what steps his Department is taking in response to the change. [231199]

Paul Clark: Total rail passenger journeys to/from/within the South West region rose from 132 million in 2002-03 to 158 million in 2006-07. The "Great Western Mainline Route Utilisation Strategy", published by the Strategic Rail Authority in 2005, predicted a rate of increase of 1.9 per cent. per annum within the Greater Western Main Line area.

The Department for Transport's strategy for providing additional capacity on the UK railway is set out in the rail White Paper "Delivering a sustainable railway", published on July 24 2007. On top of record sums already committed until 2009, the Government will invest a further £10 billion in enhancements alone over the following five years.

Road Traffic: Bristol

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the economy of congestion in the Greater Bristol area; what steps the Government is taking to reduce it; and if he will make a statement. [231198]

Paul Clark: The Government are investing in long-term transport improvements to tackle congestion in the Greater Bristol area, which is estimated by the local authorities in the area to cost the local economy at least £350 million a year.

The Government are providing £35 million over the three years to 2010-11 to Greater Bristol authorities for small-scale highways and public transport capital projects. Additionally £220 million has been allocated to the Greater Bristol area in the period to 2015-16 for major highway and public transport schemes. This includes the Greater Bristol Bus Network, a £68 million scheme that we approved in May 2008 and will provide 10 new showcase bus routes in the Bristol, Weston-Super-Mare and Bath area. In June 2008 we awarded Bristol £11.4 million for cycling initiatives that are expected to double the proportion of local journeys by bike to 7 to 8 per cent. over the three years to 2010-11.

With regard to rail, additional capacity will be delivered in the period to 2014 through extra carriages on services serving Bristol in the peak commuting hours.

The Government have also made available £2.6 million in pump-priming funding to the Greater Bristol authorities to support the development of packages of measures for addressing local congestion problems that combine local road pricing with investment in the public transport network. We will continue to work closely with the authorities as they develop their proposals.

Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001; and if he will make a statement. [231374]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 October 2008]:* I have been contacted by the Welsh Assembly Government and by other hon. Members on behalf of constituents.

The Government have announced its intention to allow the voluntary display of national flags on vehicle number plates in England, Scotland and Wales. We are looking at how this change can be brought forward as soon as possible.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which roads were detrunked in each of the last 11 years, broken down by region. [227130]

Paul Clark: The 1998 Transport White Paper, "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone", set in hand a programme of detrunking to allow the Highways Agency to concentrate on the operation of a strategic road network that links the main centres of population and major transport hubs.

The programme enables local highway authorities to set priorities for routes that primarily serve local needs, and supports the Government's aim to devolve more responsibilities to local communities. The programme is currently expected to be concluded by the end of the 2008-09 financial year.

A table providing details of the road lengths that have so far been detrunked under this programme, during each financial year, for each region has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in respect of which of his Department's public service agreements rural proofing of departmental policies is stipulated. [230741]

Paul Clark: Under CSR07, Departments no longer have Department-specific PSAs, but contribute collaboratively to 30 cross-Government PSAs.

The Department for Transport is lead Department for the delivery of PSA 5: Deliver Reliable and Efficient Transport Networks that Support Economic Growth.

PSA 5 deals with urban and inter-urban congestion, capacity and crowding on the rail network and the value achieved from departmental investment. PSA 5 does not specifically cover rural transport, however it is a requirement for all new policies and programmes to be subject to an impact assessment which includes rural proofing.

Taxis: Licensing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hackney carriage licences have been issued by local authorities in the last five years. [231505]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 29 October 2008]:* Hackney carriage licences in England and Wales are granted for a maximum period of one year. The Department for Transport carries out surveys of local taxi licensing authorities. The past four surveys[1] give the following results for the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences in England and Wales (including London).

[1] Surveys are not undertaken annually

Number of hackney carriage licences

	Thousand
31 March 2007	73.3
31 March 2005	67.8
31 March 2004	66.7
31 December 2001	63.1

Tolls

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for establishing road pricing pilots; and if he will make a statement. [232031]

Paul Clark: The Government's approach to tackling congestion and the role of charging was set out in the Command Paper we published on 16 July and the accompanying written statement made by the then Secretary of State on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 32-33WS. I would also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 431W.

Transport: South West

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what improvements are being made to the South West's transport infrastructure to support the number of homes to be built in the region by 2026 as referred to in the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. [231200]

Paul Clark: Following advice from the region on the transport priorities for the South West, the Government announced in July 2006 plans to fund a programme of major transport schemes in the period to 2015-16. The programme includes 18 schemes that will provide additional road capacity and improved accessibility to public transport services at locations identified for housing growth in the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. The schemes, some of which are subject to major scheme approval by the Department for Transport, are:

Poole Bridge Regeneration Initiative
Taunton Third Way and Northern Distributor Road
Greater Bristol Bus Network
Weymouth Relief Road
East of Exeter Phase 2
Exeter Principal Urban Area Infrastructure
East of Plymouth Developments
Bath Transport Package
South Bristol Ring Road
Weston-Super-Mare Package
Bristol Rapid Transit
Camborne-Pool-Redruth Transport Package
Exeter High Quality Public Transport
Gloucester A40 Improvements
Cheltenham and Gloucester Park and Ride
North Swindon Transport Package
Truro Transport Package
Weymouth Olympic Transport Package

The Government asked the regions in July 2008 for further advice on transport and other priorities in the period to 2018-19. This will provide the opportunity for the regional bodies in the South West to revisit their priorities and identify where the Regional Funding Allocation of £1.1 billion in the period to 2018-19 should be best targeted to support housing growth.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data were reported lost by the House of Commons Service in the last 12 months. [231425]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to replies to the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr. Sanders) on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 858W, and the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 545W. Since then it has been reported that 10 chairs were stolen from Portcullis House.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Local Government: Referendums

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what rules apply to expenditure by *(a)* central government and *(b)* local authorities in respect of local referenda (i) before and (ii) during the referendum period. [230318]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

There are long standing conventions that central Government do not incur expenditure in support of any local election campaigns. This applies equally to any local referendums.

Under the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity local authorities are precluded from incurring expenditure for the purpose of influencing public support for, or opposition to, referendum proposals.

WALES

Auditor General for Wales

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he next plans to meet the Auditor General for Wales. [231312]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Arrangements for my next meeting with the Auditor General are in hand.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on salaries for press and communication officers in his Department in each of the last three years. [230819]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has spent the following on salaries for press and communication officers:

	£
2007-08	147,178
2006-07	152,044
2005-06	181,333

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data were lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231428]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has lost one mobile phone and one security pass in the last 12 months. No data have been lost in that period.

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each contract was. [230045]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has received media monitoring services from the following:

	£
TNS Media Intelligence	
2005-06	6,730
2006-07	9,350
2007-08	12,258
Central Office of Information	
2006-07	8,601
2007-08	11,738
Meltwater News UK	[1]—

[1] We currently hold a one year contract at the cost of £4,136.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many vacant posts in his Department were advertised in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [230597]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office will normally advertise vacant posts to all Ministry of Justice and Welsh Assembly Government staff, using electronic media at no identifiable special cost. We keep information on such internal advertisements for one year only. In the 12-month period September 2007 to 2008 we have placed 14 internal advertisements for vacant posts.

In 2006 we advertised one vacant post externally at a cost of £17,240.92.

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year. [230496]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has spent the following on external training courses for departmental staff:

	Paid to:	£
2005-06	World Trade Group National School of Government	9,151
2006-07	Premier IT National School of Government the Law Society Institute of Welsh Affairs Metropolitan Police the House of Commons Wales Audit Office World Trade Group	8,452
2007-08	Premier IT National School of Government the Law Society Institute of Welsh Affairs the House of Commons Dod's Parliamentary Communications University College London	6,744

Security Industry Authority

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he has had discussions with the Secretary and Chief Executive of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) on establishing an administrative base for the SIA in Wales. [231740]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have not met with representatives of the Security Industry Authority. I am advised, however, that it has no plans to establish an administrative base in Wales but do have teams of investigators in each geographical region of the UK, including Wales.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UK efforts to eradicate poppy growing in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [227977]

Bill Rammell: Poppy eradication is the responsibility of the Afghan government. The UK is not directly involved in this activity, but we do provide support to the planning, monitoring and targeting work of the Afghan eradication forces.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime reports that 5,480 hectares were eradicated in 2008, down on 19,047 hectares in 2007. This is disappointing. But the picture is more nuanced. The drop in eradication has been accompanied by a drop of nearly one fifth in poppy cultivation, which is a significant success. Furthermore, eradication efforts in Helmand targeted land cultivated by individuals of significance in the narcotics trade.

China: Armed Forces

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from his US counterpart on *(a)* the Ministry of Defence's Chinese bilateral programme and *(b)* the training of Chinese military personnel in the UK. [228532]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not received any representations from his US counterpart on these subjects.

Georgia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions and what dates he has communicated with *(a)* members and *(b)* representatives of the Georgian government since 1 August 2008. [223567]

Caroline Flint: We have regular exchanges with members of the Georgian Government on a range of issues, most recently on 27 September when my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met President Saakashvili of Georgia at the UN General Assembly in New York.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2186W, on Iraq: asylum, how many applications under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance scheme have been rejected against the criteria *(a)* to have 12 months continuous service and *(b)* to have been employed from 1 January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [227908]

Bill Rammell: 153 applications have been rejected on the grounds of less than 12 months service, and 67 because the applicant was not employed on or after 1 January 2005.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1827W, on Iraq: asylum, of the 351 applications assessed as eligible, how many applicants have chosen the *(a)* financial package and *(b)* Gateway scheme; and if he will make a statement. [227953]

Bill Rammell: Since 10 July, the figures have changed. There have now been 1,067 applications for assistance from former staff (as defined under the scheme), of which 432 have been assessed as eligible for assistance and decisions are pending on a further 16. Of those assessed as eligible, 250 have chosen the financial package, 165 have opted for resettlement under the Gateway programme and 17 have yet to express a preference.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1120W, on Iraq: asylum, of the 220 applications for assistance under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance scheme from currently employed staff, how many *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received (i) financial assistance, (ii) exceptional leave to remain and (iii) resettlement under the Gateway scheme; and if he will make a statement. [227955]

Bill Rammell: Since 22 July, the figures have changed. There have now been 243 applications for assistance from serving staff (as defined under the scheme), of which 149 have been assessed as eligible for assistance, 83 as not eligible, and 11 are awaiting a decision. Of those assessed as eligible, 99 have chosen the financial package, 27 have chosen indefinite leave to enter the UK and the rest have yet to express a preference.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department first received a copy of the report dated 10 February 2004 from the International Committee of the Red Cross on alleged abuses by coalition forces in Abu Ghraib and elsewhere in Iraq; and from what source. [229001]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 26 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1637W. Unfortunately, despite a thorough search of our records I am unable to confirm from what source the report was obtained.

Kosovo: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether diplomatic relations have been established between the UK and Kosovo since its declaration of independence. [227993]

Caroline Flint: The UK recognised Kosovo on 18 February and the British office in Pristina became the British embassy. Our current ambassador, Mr. Andy Sparkes, presented his credentials on 28 April. The Government of Kosovo have nominated Mr. Muhammet Hamiti as chargé d'affaires in London. He is expected to take up his appointment shortly.

South Ossetia

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit South Ossetia. [229752]

Caroline Flint: At the present time, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to visit South Ossetia.

Sudan: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to seek to encourage conditions conducive to freedom of expression in Sudan ahead of the forthcoming elections in that country. [227648]

Gillian Merron: The UK has raised freedom of expression through our position as Chair of the media sub-group of the elections donor group in Khartoum. We are working with the group and the UN to lobby the Government of Sudan to reform key legislation including the media law.

The UK has supported civic education and media training programmes since late 2007, including funding the BBC World Service Trust to work with radio stations across the country. We will contribute an initial £1.5 million to the UN-managed elections fund which will run programmes on civic and voter education, training of civil society organisations, and training of electoral staff.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Qatar on the situation in Sudan. [229743]

Bill Rammell: We have held discussions with the Qataris on Sudan at official level in Doha, as well as between the UK Special Representative on Sudan and the Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, in New York. We welcome all constructive initiatives towards peace in Darfur under the overall leadership of the UN-African Union Chief Mediator, and hope that Qatar's proposal to host a Darfur peace conference, to which the Government of Sudan and Darfur rebel movements would be invited, can make a positive contribution to these efforts.

UN Women's Agency

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the creation of a UN Women's Agency; and what steps his Department has taken to encourage the UN to implement the gender reforms outlined by the High Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in November 2006. [229904]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Government's policy is to support the establishment of a single UN gender entity.

Improving how the international system delivers development outcomes for women is important for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Our objective is to see a merger of existing agencies with responsibility for gender and to ensure that UN staff responsible for gender have sufficient seniority and authority. The UK also wants to make the UN's operations on the ground better informed by its work on norms and standards, and vice versa.

The UK Government joined with other member states to agree in the UN General Assembly last month on a resolution enabling work to proceed on the single gender entity. More detailed design work is currently underway internally in the UN. We are in active discussion with the UN system, including UNIFEM and the Special Adviser on Gender, and with member states including EU partners to offer our support and advice.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and (c) its agencies. [227228]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Six press officers have currently been transferred to the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Other communication functions are still under consideration. A decision on which non-departmental public bodies and agencies will transfer to the Department is being considered.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff who are now members of his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226417]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) came into existence on 3 October 2008 and has therefore not yet paid any bonuses to staff. The figures for bonuses paid to those staff from BERR and Defra who have now moved to DECC are contained in the answers given for these two Departments. It is not currently possible to produce separate figures for these staff.

Energy: Aviation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on whether the aviation sector's energy requirements should be counted towards the total final energy demand of the UK for the purposes of the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. [227862]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are involved in continuing negotiations with EU member states, the Commission and European Parliament on the EU renewable energy directive and are working towards agreement by the end of the year.

The Government are fully committed to meeting the proposed target of 15 per cent. of UK energy consumption being sourced from renewable sources by 2020. Earlier this year, we consulted on how this might be achieved and, in the light of the results of this consultation, we plan to publish a UK renewable energy strategy in spring 2009.

Energy: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that energy prices are reduced for those paying by pre-payment meters. [226229]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: On 6 October Ofgem published initial findings from its probe into the energy supply markets for households and small businesses. They believe that, even taking account of higher costs facing companies from customers with pre-payment meters, many homes that use them are being overcharged. The Government's position was set out in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's statement to the House on 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 935.

> "Unfair pricing which hits the most vulnerable hardest is completely unacceptable. I made that clear to the representatives of the big six energy companies when I met them yesterday.
>
> I also told them that the Government expects rapid action or explanation to remedy any abuses and I will meet them again in a month to hear what they have done.
>
> We, and Ofgem, are determined to see these issues addressed. Ofgem are consulting on its findings until 1 December as part of a due process.
>
> If the companies don't act in a satisfactory way, then we will consult on legislation to prevent unfair pricing differentials."

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the recent changes in energy prices on fuel poverty among elderly people; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [227585]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government recently published the sixth annual strategy report of fuel poverty in the UK, containing 2006 figures and detailed breakdowns, including for the elderly. The report features a detailed statistical annex which contains projections of fuel poverty in England for 2007 and 2008. The projections show that fuel poverty in England is likely to rise from 2.4 million households in 2006 to around 3.1 million in 2007. For 2008, the number is likely to rise to around 3.6 million households. The projections are indicative, and can only be made at an aggregate national level, so no further breakdown is available.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people were in fuel poverty in *(a)* the London borough of Havering and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [228801]

Joan Ruddock: The most recent period for which sub-regional estimates of fuel poverty are available is 2003. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset, available on the Fuel Poverty Indicator website.

This shows that in 2003, there were around 5,000 fuel poor households in Havering. In 2003, there were around 1.2 million fuel poor households in England in total.

The Government's Sixth Annual Progress Report on Fuel Poverty was published on 2 October 2008. It shows that, in 2006, there were approximately 3.5 million households in fuel poverty across the UK, an increase of 1 million households since 2005. Around 2.75 million of these are vulnerable households (containing children, the elderly or a person who is disabled or suffering from a long-term illness).

In England, the overall number of households estimated to be in fuel poverty in 2006 is 2.4 million of which around 1.9 million are vulnerable. This represents a rise of 900,000 households since 2005 and a rise of 700,000 vulnerable households over the same period. In London in 2006, there were around 250,000 fuel poor households.

Official figures for 2007 will not be available until next year, however indicative projections for 2007 and 2008 were published in the Sixth Annual Progress Report, copies of which have been placed in the Library. The projections made for 2007 show that further price rises are likely to have pushed a further 0.7 million households into fuel poverty. Projections for 2008 show a further increase in fuel poverty for England, of around 0.5 million households. These projections are based on known price changes along with estimates for income and energy efficiency improvements.

Fuel: Prices

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward legislation to reduce the retail price of *(a)* petrol and *(b)* gas in line with reductions in production costs. [22[illegible]375]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government do not intend to control petrol or gas prices through legislation. In order to ensure competitive pricing, the Office of Fair Trading monitors the UK petrol and diesel market. It is empowered to act if the price level appears to be the result of anti-competitive behaviour. Similarly, Ofgem regulates the gas market to ensure the consumer is protected.

Insulation: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from 100,000 tonnes of ozone-depleting substances in building foams in buildings. [228297]

Joan Ruddock: No firm estimates are currently available for the quantity of ozone-depleting substances in building insulation foams. Assuming the blowing agent is two-thirds chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and one-third hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), 100,000 tonnes might be equivalent to 336 million tonnes of CO_2.

The level of emissions from building foam is known to be at its lowest while the foam remains undisturbed in the building. Most of these foams are currently still in buildings; therefore emissions from building foam sources are not likely to be significant at present.

The technical and economic feasibility of recovering and destroying ozone-depleting substances in building insulation foams at the end of the life of the building is being considered by the European Commission and member states. Defra is also seeking the views of industry stakeholders.

Microgeneration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the potential TWh contribution that solar photo voltaics and small wind technologies can make *(a)* to the 2020 renewable energy target and *(b)* by 2030. [226877]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Recent studies on the potential of solar photo voltaics and wind technologies below 1MW in the non-domestic sector showed that these technologies can make the following contributions:

	2020		*2030*	
	Annual generation in 2020 TWh	*Cumulative resource cost by 2020 £ billion*	*Annual generation in 2030 TWh*	*Cumulative resource cost by 2030 £ billion*
Small wind <100kW	2.2	1.7	3	4.8
Medium wind <100-500kW	3.7	2.4	4.3	4.9
Large wind >500kW	8.0	2.4	7.6	5.6
All wind	13.9	6.5	14.9	15.3
PV	12,5	17.3	25.7	47.5

The report can be viewed at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/index.html.

The Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation closed for responses on 26 September. In formulating our final strategy we will be considering the contribution needed to meet our targets from different technologies.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation document did not include an analysis of the potential of solar photo voltaics and small wind technologies in the non-domestic sector. [226878]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) consultation document considered a study by Element Energy on the growth potential for microgeneration and so included some analysis on the potential of solar PV and small wind technologies in the non-domestic setting up to 50 kWe. In addition, we commissioned a further study, prior to the RES consultation, on the potential of solar PV and wind technologies beyond this up to 1 MW. However, this work was not completed at the time the RES consultation was launched. We therefore said that we planned to publish this study to scope the potential for retrofitting larger on-site renewable electricity generation in the existing built environment during the consultation period, which we did. The result of this study is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48018.pdf.

As part of the Renewable Energy Strategy, which will be published in spring 2009, we will consider incentives to encourage on-site technologies and this analysis will feed into that work.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the number of domestic microgeneration installations, broken down by type. [226971]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A recent study by Element Energy commissioned by DECC (formerly BERR) and a range of stakeholders suggested the following number of domestic microgeneration installations across different technologies: Further information available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46003.pdf

DECC has also commissioned more detailed work on installations broken down by regions/devolved Administrations which will be published shortly.

Estimated number of grid-connected electricity-generating microgeneration units installed

Grid-connected electricity-generating microgeneration technology	*Estimated annual sales (Units)*	*Estimated number of units installed by 2007*	*Comments*
PV	[1]> 500	2,900	Mostly < 4 kW
Small-CHP	[1]> 7	233-990	Mostly 4 kW - 60 kW systems
Micro-Wind	[1]> 159	1134	Mostly 1.5 kW - 4 kW systems
Micro-Hydro	[1]> 11	65-75	Mostly ca. 4 kW systems

[1] In 2006.

Estimated numbers of heat-only microgeneration technologies installed

Heat-only generating microgeneration technology	*Approximate annual sales*	*Estimated number installed by 2007*	*Comments*
Solar Thermal	[1]At least 5,000-6,000	90,000	Higher numbers have been estimated by STA, but could not be verified during this study
Biomass	[1]ca. 100	500-600	Estimated by a fuel supplier. Mostly these are fuelled by chips rather than pellets
GSHP	[1]ca. 100	750-2,000	Estimated by industry experts and likely uptake through publicly-funded energy efficiency schemes
ASHP	[1]< 100	160	Mostly installed through publicly-funded energy efficiency schemes

[1] In 2007.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the number of people employed in the microgeneration industry. [226973]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold information on the number of people employed in the microgeneration industry.

Plutonium: Prices

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what value was put on the share of British Energy plutonium owned by the Government through its share ownership in British Energy, as part of the sale price agreed with Eléctricité de France. [226872]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: British Energy owns a relatively small quantity of plutonium that has arisen from reprocessing at Thorp. British Energy treats the plutonium as a zero-value asset, and records a liability of £4.8 million (discounted) in its accounts relating to the management of the plutonium. This is consistent with the approach taken by the NDA to the plutonium it holds. EdF's offer for British Energy, under which EdF would pay around £4.4 billion to Government for its stake appeared to represent value for money. The plutonium stocks were not separately valued, and any valuation of them would have been *de minimis* in the context of the deal as a whole.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what his policy is on whether 5000 MW is an appropriate threshold for renewable energy projects that will not be completed by 2020 in the context of the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. [227858]

(2) what steps the Government will take to maintain investor confidence in the EU's commitment to renewable energy if a major review of the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources takes place in or around 2014. [227859]

(3) what his policy is on whether the 20 per cent. renewable energy target should continue in force following any review of the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources in or around 2014. [227860]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are involved in continuing negotiations with EU member states, the Commission and European Parliament on the EU renewable energy directive and are working towards agreement by the end of the year.

The Government are fully committed to meeting the proposed target of 15 per cent. of UK energy consumption being sourced from renewable sources by 2020. Earlier this year, we consulted on how this might be achieved and, in the light of the results of this consultation, we plan to publish a UK renewable energy strategy in spring 2009.

Renewable Energy: Energy Supply

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on whether renewable energy should be given priority access, subject to maintaining network reliability, to connection to the National Grid network and to priority transmission and distribution. [227857]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ensuring access for a mix of generating technologies is essential in delivering energy security and tackling climate change. As the amount of variable renewable generation on the network increases, we will need to see timely investment in new responsive back-up capacity in order to ensure reliable electricity supplies.

The Government are focussing on providing faster grid access for renewable and other generators. In June 2008 we published the Transmission Access Review, with Ofgem, that set out principles for grid access reform in particular that new generators should be offered firm connection dates reasonably consistent with project development timescales.

Once connected, renewable and other generators have rights to use the electricity network. It is for each generator to choose when to generate. A wind generator, for example, will be able to run when wind speeds allow, subject to the need to maintain system reliability.

Renewable Energy: Standards

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on whether countries outside the EU supplying renewable energy to the EU should also have adopted a renewable energy target of similar scale to that adopted by the EU. [227856]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are involved in continuing negotiations with EU member states, the Commission and European Parliament on the EU renewable energy directive and are working towards agreement by the end of the year.

The Government are fully committed to meeting the proposed target of 15 per cent. of UK energy consumption being sourced from renewable sources by 2020. Earlier this year, we consulted on how this might be achieved and, in the light of the results of this consultation, we plan to publish a UK renewable energy strategy in spring 2009.

Solar Power: Africa

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the feasibility of importing solar electricity from Africa using a high voltage direct current grid; and if he will make a statement. [227239]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 15 October 2008]*: The Government are working to ensure the right framework and incentives are in place to encourage investment in bringing forward a range of renewable technologies as part of formulating our Renewable Energy Strategy which we will publish next spring. Our consultation on it closed on 26 September and we will be considering representations to it in finalising our strategy.

Water Power

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment has been made of the potential contribution water wheels could make to the production of energy from renewable sources. [228306]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* No assessment has been made of the potential contribution that water wheels could make to the production of energy. However work is currently being undertaken by the British Hydropower Association, co-funded by DECC and the Welsh Assembly Government, into the potential for hydropower in England and Wales. This study does not look specifically at water wheels but hydropower as a whole and should be completed by the end of the autumn. A Scottish hydropower study was recently completed and can be found at

http://cci.scot.nhs.uk/Resource/Doc/917/0064958.pdf.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of energy in the UK was produced from water wheels situated on major rivers in the latest period for which figures are available. [228307]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* No research has been undertaken to look specifically at the UK generation from water wheels in the UK.

For reference, according to the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2008 (5.1) 5089 GWh of electricity in 2007 came from hydropower, of which 535 GWh was from small scale hydro.

A report by Element Energy jointly funded by BERR and a number of companies, development agencies and trade associations entitled "The Growth Potential for microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland", estimated that there are between 65-75 micro-hydro installations. The report is available at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/microgenerationresearch.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Mr Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will change the planning application process for wind farms to include an assessment of economic viability as part of the application process; [231020]

(2) if he will change the planning application process for wind farms to include consideration of *(a)* the suitability of the topography and *(b)* meteorological viability in the application process. [231021]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Our planning policy statement (PPS) on climate change expects planning authorities to provide a framework that promotes and encourages renewable energy. The PPS advises planning authorities that they should not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable energy because new renewable energy projects provide crucial national benefits. Planning authorities are also asked not to question the energy justification for why a proposal must be sited in a particular location as this involves considerations of technical and commercial feasibility (including meteorological and economic viability) which are for the developer concerned.

When determining planning applications, planning authorities should address the planning issues which arise from the proposed location of renewable energy projects, including the suitability of the topography. These concerns are set out in our published planning policy statements and guidance, together with the wider environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy projects that should also be taken into account.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Cars: Retail Trade

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what response he plans to make to the expiry of the Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [228887]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The current Motor Vehicle Block Exemption is due to expire in 2010. On the basis of detailed discussion with member states, the exemption will either be extended, renegotiated or removed by the European Commission. It is not in the gift of member states.

Having consulted widely with all areas of the industry and other stakeholders, the Government submitted a response to the Commission on 25 July 2008. The response stated that the UK supports the Commission view that this sector specific block exemption should not be renewed in 2010. This was, however, conditional on provision being made in either the vertical block exemption or other EU Regulations addressing concerns in a number of areas, particularly after-market access to technical information.

Minimum Wage

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many prosecutions there have been of employers for *(a)* failing to pay the national minimum wage and *(b)* offences, associated with the national minimum wage, relating to charges levied on employees for accommodation or transport. [230988]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

In the great majority of cases where a compliance officer identifies minimum wage arrears, the employer pays any minimum wage arrears without the need for any formal enforcement action.

Out of the five successful national minimum wage prosecutions, there has been one in respect of the section 31(1) offence relating to an employer refusing or wilfully neglecting to pay the national minimum wage. There have been no prosecutions so far that relate to charges levied on workers for accommodation or transport.

Official Hospitality

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which offices in his Department made arrangements to receive the incoming Secretary of State at the Department's premises on his appointment; and what instructions were given to staff on that reception. [231739]

Mr. McFadden: Staff were informed that Peter Mandelson would be arriving in the Department as part of its internal communication policy and in line with practice across Whitehall. They were invited to greet him if they wished.

Solar Power

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department plans to spend on development of solar energy technology in 2008. [224920]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The Low Carbon Buildings programme (LCBP), launched in 2006, is the Government's £86 million capital grant programme funding the installation of on-site technologies for householders, communities, public sector and business.

Phase 1 is a £36 million programme from which from January 2008 we have spent £1,253,515 in grant funding for solar technologies. We anticipate spending an additional £500,000 for the remainder of 2008 based on current commitments. Phase 2 is a £50 million programme which has spent £4,000,000 on solar technologies so far and we forecast a further £1.8 million will be spent this year based on current commitments.

Electricity generated from solar PV is also eligible for support under the renewables obligation (RO), which is the Government's main mechanism for encouraging new renewable electricity generation. Generators currently receive one renewables obligation certificate (ROC) for every 1MWh of renewable electricity. Under reforms to the RO, we are proposing that solar PV receive two ROCs per MWh.

Trade: Canada

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of trade between the UK and Canada was in each of the last five years. [231767]

Mr. Thomas: The data requested are shown in the following table.

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Canada	*UK exports of services to Canada*	*UK imports of goods from Canada*	*UK imports of services from Canada*
2003	3,239	1,595	3,664	1,002
2004	3,340	1,782	4,194	1,049
2005	3,277	1,756	4,157	1,164
2006	3,894	2,019	4,954	1,348
2007	3,261	2,473	5,775	1,397

Source:
UK Balance of Payments Pink Book, 2008 edition.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229538]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Here is the breakdown of membership of the different Civil Service Pension schemes for staff in DCMS and The Royal Parks.

	DCMS	*(%)*	*The Royal Parks*	*(%)*
Classic	307	62.5	42	44
Classic Plus	22	4.5		7.5
Nuvos	10	2	11	11.5
Premium	143	29	28	29.5

A small number of staff have opted out of joining any of the available Civil Service pension schemes; currently 11 (2 per cent.) in DCMS and 7 (7.5 per cent.) in The Royal Parks.

Sport England: Public Appointments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1206W, on Sport England: public appointments, what the reason is for the most recent delay in appointing a new chairman of Sport England; and if he will make a statement. [230767]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* We have decided to recruit a deputy chair to support the chair. Due to the complementary nature of these roles, the chair appointment has been delayed to allow a single competition process. Both of these posts will be ministerial appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, and appointed through open competition. Both posts have now been advertised.

The chair and deputy chair will play a critical role in delivering the new Sport England strategy, which aims to build the foundation of sporting success through the creation of a world leading community sports system.

Sports

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many community amateur sports clubs there are in *(a)* Bassetlaw constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [224912]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have removed one club from the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) register in the last six months following the club's dissolution.

HMRC do not separately identify CASCs by constituency. As of 30 October 2008, according to HMRC records, there are 78 registered CASCs with a Nottinghamshire postcode.

At the end of August 2008 there were 4,965 sports clubs registered with HMRC as CASCs. A list of registered clubs is published on the HMRC website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/CASC/clubs.htm.

HMRC does not hold figures on numbers of CASC registrations broken down by sport.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* total payload and *(b)* flexibility of the weapons system of the (i) Tornado aircraft to be deployed in Afghanistan and (ii) Harrier aircraft to be withdrawn from Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [231749]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A comprehensive assessment has been made of the relative capabilities of the Tornado and Harrier Weapons Systems in terms of payload and flexibility. Both aircraft have similar capability and are fully capable of meeting all of their commitments in Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Electoral Register

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of service personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force are registered to vote. [231468]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is contained in the Service Voting Survey 2007 Report which was placed in the Library of the House on 7 July 2008.

Armed Forces: Financial Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial support or advice is available to armed services personnel in financial difficulty or debt. [231400]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Where service personnel find themselves facing financial difficulty the chain of command, welfare officers and pay staff can offer general guidance and signposting to specialist support agencies where appropriate. Each of the services also offers similar support through the single service websites. The MOD is currently working with the Financial Services Authority to ensure that all service personnel receive financial awareness training.

In addition, the Minimum Drawing Rate ensures that deductions from pay cannot reduce a service person's monthly pay beneath a minimum level. With the introduction of Pay as You Dine, measures are in place to ensure that three meals a day are always available to those facing financial difficulties.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel in *(a)* single living and *(b)* service family accommodation have defaulted on their rent payments in the last 12 months. [231401]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Charges for accommodation for service personnel are deducted from an individual's pay at source, therefore it is not possible to default on rent payments.

Non-service personnel who occupy service accommodation are billed directly but this information is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to identify how many have defaulted on rent payments.

Armed Forces: International Cooperation

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the NATO-supported centres of excellence in *(a)* joint air power competence, *(b)* defence against terrorism, *(c)* naval mine warfare, *(d)* combined joint operations from the sea, *(e)* civil military operations, *(f)* cold weather operations, *(g)* joint chemical biological radiation and nuclear defence, *(h)* air operations analysis and simulation and *(i)* command and control. [230576]

Mr. Hutton: We sponsor and provide personnel to those COE that generate a capability that we are unable to create in-country or within the existing NATO framework and that are of particular benefit to the UK. Occasionally, we provide UK expertise for limited periods of time to those COE that provide useful capability but which we are unable to support as a full MOU signatory.

HQ Allied Command Transformation is responsible for COE accreditation and oversight. However, we require all UK personnel posted to COE to provide regular reports to the lead organisation within the MOD on the activities and the operational value of the COE. These reports are used to determine future levels of UK commitment.

Currently we support the Joint Air Competence, Defence Against Terrorism, Combined Joint Operations from the Sea and Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiation and Nuclear Defence COE but not the Civil Military Operations, Naval Mine Warfare, Cold Weather Operations, Air Operations Analysis and Simulation and Command and Control COE.

Armed Forces: Young People

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to ensure that parents or responsible adults are consulted before the recruitment of minors to the armed services; and what procedures are in place to ensure such consultation takes place in circumstances where the parents of the minor have separated. [230986]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During the recruit selection process staff at the armed forces careers offices provide comprehensive written and verbal guidance to all potential recruits, in particular those under 18 years of age, and their parents regarding their terms of service and rights to discharge. Parents/guardians of applicants aged under 18 are required to complete a formal written consent form before the young person can apply to join and again before the applicant can enter service. The detailed conditions for applicants who are under 18 years of age are:

> Where the young person is living with both parents, the signatures of both parents are necessary.

Where the young person is living with only one parent, the signature of that parent is required.

Where the young person is not living with either of his/her parents, the signature of a person (whether or not a parent) who has parental responsibility in respect of the young person, and whose whereabouts are known or can, after reasonable enquiry can be ascertained, is required.

Where the young person is the subject of a supervision order, the signature of a person authorised by the supervising authority is necessary in addition to the signatures referred to above. The date of expiry of the Order is also to be given.

Where the young person is the subject of a care order, the only signature required is that of a person authorised by the local authority concerned.

Arms Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the establishment of common international standards for the export, import and transfer of conventional arms. [228172]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are strongly in favour of establishing common international standards for the export, import and transfer of conventional arms. That is why the UK has taken an international lead in establishing an Arms Trade treaty (ATT). Together with six other countries, we have been pressing for such a treaty to be agreed at the UN. At this year's First Committee of the UN General Assembly, the UK has co-authored a resolution proposing further work at the UN in 2009 aimed at establishing an ATT. Achieving an ATT is a complex process, which will take time, but we have made good progress, and we will continue to work actively towards achieving our goal.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary launched a new phase of the UK's campaign towards an ATT by hosting a meeting of key stakeholders from industry, civil society, academia and the media in London on 9 September. In addition, I hosted a briefing on 9 October for the London-based Diplomatic Corps setting out the Government's support for an ATT and encouraging active international engagement in the UN process.

Departmental Civil Servants

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants were promoted in each year since 1998. [231461]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Prior to April 2005, data on the number of civil servants promoted in each year since 1998 were not held centrally. To provide the information would require asking Business Partners to trawl their records and this could be done only at disproportionate cost. The number of civil servants who were substantively promoted from April 2005 to date is shown in the following table:

	Total
2005	855
2006	489
2007	499
2008	492

Note:
These figures do not include individuals who advance or progress within a pay band.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what policies his Department has in place to support British motor manufacturers. [230424]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department's policy on the acquisition of vehicles, and motor trade assemblies/parts, is to seek best overall economic advantage in the supply arrangements. EC procurement rules prohibit preferential treatment of UK providers and MOD pursues the normal EC prescribed competitive route, where those rules apply.

The MOD does, however, consider wider economic factors, such as the effect on British industry, when looking at the options for significant purchases. The MOD also pursues a policy of maximum competition within the sub-contract supply chain with a view to incentivise innovation and maximise opportunities for small to medium enterprises.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [229132]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department has allocated the following levels of funding for the current financial year for the Department's non-departmental public bodies:

	£
Royal Naval Museum	1,113,000
Royal Navy Submarine Museum	584,000
Royal Marines Museum	779,000
Fleet Air Arm Museum	624,000
National Army Museum	5,591,000
Royal Air Force Museum	7,189,000

Departmental Retirement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving armed services personnel have taken voluntary early retirement in each year since 2001. [231399]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of trained UK Regular Forces service personnel who have taken early voluntary retirement is recorded in tables one to eight of TSP5 (UK Regular Forces Outflow From Trained Strength to Civil Life) as outflow type "Voluntary Outflow".

TSP5 is published monthly, the current September 2008 publication includes time series back to 1998-99 and can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=60&date=2008-10-14&pubType=1&PublishTime=09:30:00&from=home&tabOption=3

Copies of TSP 5 are also available in the Library of the House.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [221939]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 90-91W.

EU Code of Conduct on Conventional Arms Transfers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the EU Code of Conduct on Conventional Arms Transfers. [228171]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government believe that the EU Code of Conduct on Conventional Arms provides a robust and effective system for all member states of the EU to assess their strategic exports.

The Government are constantly reviewing application of the code, both domestically and by our EU partners. If cases come to light suggesting that the code is being interpreted inconsistently by our EU partners, the Government pursue this through discussions at the EU Council Working Group on Conventional Arms (COARM) in Brussels which is responsible for the implementation of the code of conduct. The development at COARM of the User's Guide on the Code of Conduct (published in full in this year's Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls), has helped to reduce the number of these cases.

Kenley Airfield

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2174W, on Kenley airfield, where the fence is stored; what condition it is in; and whether it is compatible with the proposed new planning application. [231029]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The fence purchased by the MOD is stored in the No 615 Volunteer Gliding Squadron compound at Kenley Airfield and is in good condition. The revised fence design developed in consultation with local authorities and included in the new planning application will use a small proportion of the fence already procured.

Navy: Reserve Forces

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the availability of suitable Royal Navy Reserve candidates for the post of Commander Maritime Reserves; [231003]

(2) what consultations he has had with Royal Navy and Royal Marine reservists on the possibility of replacing Commander Maritime Reserves with a regular Royal Navy officer. [231004]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In November 2006, the then Commander Maritime Reserves informed the Royal Naval Reserve and the Royal Marine Reserve that a future incumbent of his post could either be a regular or reservist officer. It was also informed that the basis for this selection would be completely on merit. A number of candidates were considered for the post of Commander Maritime Reserves at a board convened in September 2008. The candidates were either members of the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Marine Reserve, the Royal Fleet Reserve or the Active List of regular servicemen and women. The appointment of a regular officer as Commander Maritime Reserves is entirely consistent with the Royal Navy's policy of achieving full professional integration of its maritime reserves. All candidates were both reported on and considered for promotion under the common Royal Navy system of career management and promotion appropriate to the post. A number of regular senior posts within the Royal Navy remain open for competition from officers of the Royal Naval Reserve who are suitably qualified and can offer appropriate availability.

Satellites

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what use his Department makes of data obtained from earth observation satellites; and what payment is made for such data, where applicable. [230463]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD uses data from earth observation satellites principally to deepen its understanding of meteorological, geographical and hydrographical situations. This data provide important background and context for military commanders in the planning of exercises and operations. In addition, the Met Office uses data from earth observation satellites for weather prediction and climate monitoring purposes.

We use data from a global network of meteorological and climate monitoring satellites and contribute financially to the European component of this network through our contribution to EUMETSAT (the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites). Subscription levels are on average approximately £33 million per year.

Outside of EUMETSAT, departmental expenditure for the acquisition of data in 2007-08 was just over £434,000.

Trident Missiles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for measures *(a)* to further reduce the operational status of the UK's Trident system and *(b)* increase transparency with regard to the capabilities of the UK's Trident system as agreed in the plan for action at the 2000 review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty. [231402]

Mr. Hutton: Our plans for the deterrent are set out in the White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), which was published on 4 December 2006. This White Paper also provides a clear and transparent statement of the capabilities of the UK's Trident system.

USA: Armed Forces

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many private prosecutions have been brought against members of the United States visiting forces in each year since 2000; and how many were successful in each year. [231890]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence holds no records regarding private prosecutions of US visiting forces personnel.

World War II: Anniversaries

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a representative of his Department will attend the 65th D-Day Anniversary Parade in Normandy. [230487]

Mr. Kevan Jones: So far as I am aware, no invitation has been received from the French Government for ministerial or other senior representation at a 65th D-day Anniversary Parade in Normandy next June; should an invitation be received nearer the date of the anniversary, it will be considered carefully. An Army band participates annually in the Normandy commemorations and one is scheduled to participate in 2009.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consideration he gave to including cost projections in relation to *(a)* police enforcement and *(b)* changes in trading standards arrangements in his Department's impact assessment relating to the Government's alcohol strategy; what estimate he has made of these costs; and if he will make a statement; [228590]

(2) what estimate he has made of changes in the level of licensing fees payable by alcohol vendors in respect of each of the policy options set out in his Department's further consultation on its alcohol strategy in July 2008. [228631]

Dawn Primarolo: If the Government decide to take regulatory action, the Department and the Home Office will draw up final impact assessments, taking account of evidence submitted during the consultation period.

Breast Feeding: Telephone Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what date the national breastfeeding helpline went live; how many calls it has received in each month since that date; and what steps have been taken by his Department to promote awareness of it; [229829]

(2) how much it costs a member of the public to call the national breastfeeding helpline; and if he will make calls to it free of charge; [229830]

(3) how much his Department has spent on the national breastfeeding helpline in each month since its inception. [229832]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Breastfeeding helpline was launched in February 2008 linking up with two of the existing helplines run by the voluntary organisations. The combined line enables callers local access to advice and support from trained breastfeeding counsellors.

The helpline has received in total 23,728 calls to date. The number of calls received since February 2008 is shown in the following table.

	Number
February	2,543
March	2,524
April	2,762
May	2,982
June	2,941
July	3,282
August	3,528
September	3,166
Total	23,728

The helpline has been promoted during this year's National Breastfeeding Awareness Week in May 2008. It is also promoted via the NHS breastfeeding website and included in all relevant departmental publications.

The calls are charged at a local rate 8p for the first minute and 5p per minute thereafter. The Department at present has no plans to provide free access to the helpline.

The Department has allocated £150,000 to fund the helpline in the year 2008-09 and has also contributed £20,555 towards set-up costs.

Contraceptives: Depression

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many females were diagnosed with depression triggered by an oral contraceptive in each of the last five years, broken down by oral contraceptive. [229565]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Dementia: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with *(a)* Alzheimer's disease and *(b)* other forms of dementia in the Stroud constituency. [231164]

Phil Hope: The national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people recorded on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of dementia but this does not distinguish between Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. The publication "Revisions to the GMS Contract 2006/07" states that Alzheimer's disease accounts for 50-75 per cent. of cases of dementia. This register count is available for the two latest releases of QOF, covering 2006-07 and 2007-08.

We are unable to supply this information for parliamentary constituencies as the data are only available for general practices (GPs) and can be aggregated to primary care trust (PCT) level. We have supplied information for the smallest health area that covers Stroud, namely Gloucestershire PCT.

These QOF figures are given in the following table. They are the totals for patients with dementia.

QOF data—Number of patients on the dementia disease registers

	Financial year	
	2007-08	*2006-07*
Gloucestershire PCT	2,825	2,707

Notes:

1. QOF is the national Quality and Outcomes Framework, introduced as part of the new General Medical Services (GMS) contract on 1 April 2004.
2. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most Personal Medical Services (PMS) practices also taking part.
3. The published QOF information was derived from the Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS), a national system developed by NHS Connecting for Health.
4. QMAS uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement. QMAS is a national IT system developed by NHS Connecting for Health to support the QOF.
5. The system calculates practice achievement against national targets. It gives general practices, primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) objective evidence and feedback on the quality of care delivered to patients.
6. The Quality Management Analysis System captures the number of patients on the various disease registers for each practice. The number of patients on the clinical registers can be used to calculate measures of disease prevalence, expressing the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the number of patients on practices' lists.
7. Figures presented here are just the number of patients on the disease register for dementia.

Source:

The data supplied in Table 1 are published on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care. (a) For 2007-08 see the Quality and Outcomes Framework 2007-08 publication data tables at the following link (published 30 September 2008): http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2007/08/data-tables. The table for PCT level QOF for 2007-08 can be found at this link: http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/QOF/2007-08/NewFilesGS/QOF0708_PCTs_Prevalence.xls This publication has been placed in the library. (b) For 2006-07 see Quality and Outcomes Framework 2006-07 publication data tables at the following link (published 28 September 2007): http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2006/07/qof-2006-07-data-tables. The table for PCT level QOF for 2006-07 can be found at this link: http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/QOF/2006-07/QOF0607_PCTs_Prevalence.xls. This publication has been placed in the library.

Departmental NDPBs

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to review the efficacy of the *(a)* Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and Environment Committee, *(b)* Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment Committee, *(c)* Independent Reconfiguration Panel and *(d)* National Joint Registry Steering Committee. [231567]

Dawn Primarolo: The Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment is reviewed periodically by the Department and was last reviewed in 2007. The Department concluded that the committee was a cost effective way for Government Departments and Agencies to obtain independent advice from leading UK experts in the field.

The Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment is reviewed periodically by the Government and was last reviewed in 2003. The Department concluded that the committee was a cost effective way for Government Departments and Agencies to obtain independent advice from leading UK experts in the field.

The Independent Reconfiguration Panel is subject to annual review by the Department. Further information can be found on the Panel's website at:

www.irpanel.org.uk.

The last review of the National Joint Registry Steering Committee (NJRSC) was carried out in January 2005, and resulted in establishment of the NJRSC as an advisory non-departmental public body. In April 2008, the National Joint Registry was incorporated into the National Clinical Audit and Patient's Outcomes programme. The Department of Health is currently considering what consequential changes to the accountability arrangements for the NJRSC are necessary to ensure it continues to discharge its functions in an efficient and effective manner.

Departmental Pay

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many post holders in his Department receive a London living allowance of £8,400 per month. [230647]

Mr. Bradshaw: No post holders receive a London living allowance of £8,400 a month.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the highest bonus was paid to any post holder in his Department in 2007-08. [230650]

Mr. Bradshaw: The highest bonus paid to a post holder in the Department in 2007-08 was £27,500.

Departmental Standards

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the terms are of the individual performance agreement of the Commercial Director of his Department. [230649]

Mr. Bradshaw: The individual performance agreement for 2007-08 with the Commercial Director of the Department included objectives to do with supporting the NHS Reform Agenda, reviewing the activities and building the capacity of the Commercial Directorate to improve engagement with the national health service, reviewing and developing procurement models for health, putting in place programmes to deliver comprehensive spending review savings, contributing to the Department's implementation of its Capability Review findings, developing commercial skills and a set of values within the Commercial Directorate, and demonstrating corporate leadership.

Elderly: Health Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reform care provided by the NHS for the elderly. [231226]

Phil Hope: Lord Darzi's recent review, "High Quality Care For All", published on 4 July 2007 sets out a framework for improving the quality of care for everybody that uses the NHS including older people. A copy of this review has already been placed in the Library.

Food: Safety

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* inspections and *(b)* audits the Food Standards Agency undertakes of local authority premises; and what plans there are to incorporate such inspections into comprehensive area assessments. [230914]

Dawn Primarolo: Local authorities are responsible for the inspection of food premises within their area. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for the audit and monitoring of all local authority food law enforcement activities against a standard which forms part of the framework agreement on local authority food law enforcement. This includes audit of the local authority food law enforcement services and their risk-based food business inspection programmes. Details of the framework agreement, and published local authority monitoring and audit findings, are available from the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/foodlaw/frameagree/

The final consultation on the comprehensive area assessment (CM) has just closed. The final proposals are due to be announced in the new year.

Health

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people living in *(a)* Warrington, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England have been diagnosed with (i) coronary heart disease, (ii) diabetes and (iii) food related allergies. [231812]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information in the form requested. However, the national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), which many general practices participate in, records the number of people recorded on certain practice disease registers. Such registers exist for both coronary heart disease (CHD) and diabetes.

The CHD register includes all patients who have had coronary artery revascularisation procedures such as coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). However, patients with Cardiac Syndrome X will not generally be included in the CHD register.

The diabetes register includes patients aged 17 years and over with diabetes mellitus. As the care of children with diabetes mellitus is generally under the control of specialists, the diabetes register generally excludes those patients age 16 and under.

The following table below sets out the number of people on CHD registers and diabetes registers for Warrington Primary Care Trust (PCT) and North West Strategic Health Authority.

The Department does not collect any data on food related allergies and does not have figures for the rest of the United Kingdom.

Patient register	*Number of patients*
Warrington PCT 2007-08	
Coronary Heart Disease	7,728
Diabetes	8,347
North West SHA 2007-08	
Coronary Heart Disease	308,187
Diabetes	296,826
England 2007-08	
Coronary Heart Disease	1,892,432
Diabetes	2,088,335

Health Professions: Manpower

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals of each healthcare profession there have been in the Newly Qualified Healthcare Professionals Pool in each month since its creation; and if he will make a statement. [230906]

Ann Keen: The data requested are shown in the following tables.

Number of professionals probably available each month

	General Adult	*Children's*	*Mental Health*	*Learning Disabilities*	*Midwife*	*Chiropody/ Podiatry*	*Dietetics*	*Occupational Therapy*
April 2007	216	40	57	6	20	10	5	51
May 2007	556	91	135	13	60	19	20	81
June 2007	757	116	190	19	77	21	26	115
July 2007	1017	147	271	26	109	32	37	192
August 2007	1136	152	304	31	136	42	50	200
September 2007	1127	154	315	38	143	40	46	209
October 2007	1203	150	339	41	155	49	47	225
November 2007	1142	132	334	44	151	44	38	186
December 2007	1059	118	319	37	135	40	33	167
January 2008	1027	109	320	38	134	39	33	164
February 2008	986	103	322	42	118	35	34	145
March 2008	774	81	281	42	93	23	28	131
April 2008	721	77	272	40	85	23	26	126
May 2008	647	70	251	34	68	16	23	115
June 2008	619	79	236	37	65	15	20	111
July 2008	572	74	236	26	61	20	21	118
August 2008	528	70	220	27	51	23	27	112
September 2008	529	67	229	30	43	26	34	122
October 2008	452	52	222	32	41	24	32	120

	Orthoptics	*Physiotherapy*	*Radiography Diagnostic*	*Radiography Therapeutic*	*Prosthetics and Orthotists*	*Speech and Language Therapy*	*Audiology*
April 2007	1	55	15	0	0	19	2
May 2007	3	214	38	3	1	37	6
June 2007	4	379	60	6	2	45	10
July 2007	7	666	75	8	2	75	10
August 2007	8	860	75	8	2	90	11
September 2007	8	892	69	6	2	89	13
October 2007	8	952	68	6	2	97	14
November 2007	7	907	61	6	3	94	13
December 2007	5	825	60	7	5	84	10
January 2008	5	803	58	7	5	81	14
February 2008	6	784	56	7	6	78	15
March 2008	5	651	45	7	5	63	13
April 2008	5	598	43	4	5	61	11
May 2008	3	502	34	4	5	45	13
June 2008	4	544	32	6	5	38	15
July 2008	6	737	35	6	5	49	16
August 2008	6	828	35	5	5	55	15
September 2008	4	872	41	5	5	58	13
October 2008	3	793	39	2	5	64	14

Professionals joining each month

	General Adult	*Children's*	*Mental Health*	*Learning Disabilities*	*Midwife*	*Chiropody/ Podiatry*	*Dietetics*	*Occupational Therapy*
April 2007	216	40	57	6	20	10	5	51
May 2007	340	52	78	7	40	9	15	30
June 2007	226	31	61	7	21	6	8	38
July 2007	286	39	85	7	36	12	14	84
August 2007	215	25	65	9	32	11	13	29
September 2007	197	31	63	8	26	2	1	23
October 2007	186	13	53	4	21	10	2	28
November 2007	143	9	43	6	15	1	4	11
December 2007	80	7	25	2	8	2	2	8
January 2008	109	7	28	5	10	1	2	15
February 2008	107	7	30	7	8	0	4	10
March 2008	99	14	34	8	19	1	0	14
April 2008	92	11	34	6	8	4	0	12
May 2008	76	8	32	5	8	3	1	14
June 2008	80	13	24	5	8	1	4	16
July 2008	75	14	38	1	6	8	5	24
August 2008	70	13	36	6	2	7	7	19
September 2008	113	9	47	7	4	4	10	32
October 2008	10	5	31	8	9	2	3	20

	Orthoptics	*Physiotherapy*	*Radiography Diagnostic*	*Radiography Therapeutic*	*Prosthetics and Orthotists*	*Speech and Language Therapy*	*Audiology*
April 2007	1	55	15	0	0	19	2
May 2007	2	159	23	3	1	18	4
June 2007	1	169	23	3	1	11	4
July 2007	3	289	17	2	0	30	1
August 2007	2	210	8	0	0	23	3
September 2007	1	92	6	0	0	7	2
October 2007	0	112	10	0	0	13	3
November 2007	0	55	1	0	1	9	3
December 2007	0	20	4	3	2	4	1
January 2008	0	27	2	0	0	4	4
February 2008	1	78	5	0	1	9	2
March 2008	0	55	2	0	1	3	0
April 2008	0	46	6	0	0	5	0
May 2008	0	25	1	0	1	1	3
June 2008	1	141	4	3	1	3	4
July 2008	2	262	10	1	2	17	4
August 2008	0	164	7	1	1	13	2

	Orthoptics	*Physiotherapy*	*Radiography Diagnostic*	*Radiography Therapeutic*	*Prosthetics and Orthotists*	*Speech and Language Therapy*	*Audiology*
September 2008	0	126	9	1	1	10	2
October 2008	0	65	6	0	0	12	4

Health Visitors: Manpower

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors were employed by each strategic health authority in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* 2007. [231054]

Ann Keen: The number of health visitors employed by each strategic health authority in 1997, 2002 and 2007 is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: health visitors in England by strategic health authority area as at 30 September each specified year

			Headcount
	1997	*2002*	*2007*
England	12,410	12,774	11,569
North East Strategic Health Authority Area	645	668	698
North West Strategic Health Authority Area	1,899	1,968	1,897
Yorkshire and The Humber Strategic Health Authority Area	1,293	1,413	1,301
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority Area	1,025	1,016	925
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority Area	1,302	1,391	1,269
East of England Strategic Health Authority Area	1,150	1,148	1,095
London Strategic Health Authority Area	1,876	1,763	1,613
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority Area	990	1,102	778
South Central Strategic Health Authority Area	1,029	1,064	856
South West Strategic Health Authority Area	1,201	1,241	1,137

Notes:
1. More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 232 headcount duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census
2. Data Quality

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre Non Medical Workforce Census.

Hospitals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals he has visited in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [227792]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has officially visited 30 hospitals in the last 12 months.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve *(a)* the rate of infection control and *(b)* patient safety in the NHS. [231228]

Ann Keen: The Department's strategy for reducing infections in the national health service is set out in "Clean, safe care", which has already been placed in the Library.

Infection control is one of the five top priorities in the NHS operating framework for 2008-09 and MRSA and *Clostridium difficile* targets to 2010-11 have been set under the "Better Care for All" public service agreement. "Clean, safe care" outlines the comprehensive range of measures being employed, backed by £270 million additional investment per year by 2010-11 to tackle health care associated infections (HCAIs) and improve cleanliness.

Steps include screening all elective admissions to hospitals for MRSA by March 2009, and all emergency admissions by 2010-11; a technology programme designed to accelerate the development and uptake of new technologies to improve infection control; and the development of a new national standard for cleanliness in the national health service. The Department is re-launching its nationwide antibiotic awareness campaign alongside an HCAI patient campaign.

These measures should support the NHS to meet their legal requirements on infection control, as set out in the "Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections" (which has already been placed in the Library). All acute NHS trusts are inspected annually against the "Code of Practice" by the Healthcare Commission. From April 2009, the new Care Quality Commission will assess compliance against the "Code of Practice" and will have a broader range of powers to ensure high performance in infection control.

Improving patient safety has been a fundamental priority running through our policies to improve the quality of NHS care. We have put in place national standards for safety. We also established the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) to promote reporting of adverse events and support the NHS to manage known risks. We have made good progress in the last decade on establishing a unified system for reporting and analysis when things go wrong.

"Safety First: A report for patients, clinicians and healthcare managers" sets out the Department's current agenda for patient safety. It made 14 recommendations to ensure that patient safety remains a priority for the Government and the NHS.

The final report of Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review, "High Quality Care For All", states that continuously improving patient safety should be at the top of the health care agenda for the 21st century. To achieve this, from April 2009, the NPSA will run an additional, dedicated national patient safety initiative to tackle central line catheter-related bloodstream infections. It will continue to run regular patient safety initiatives like this in future. The Agency will also work with stakeholders in this country to draw up its own list of 'Never Events' such as wrong site surgery. From next year, primary care trusts will select their own priorities from this list in their annual operating plan.

Maternity Services

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to respond to the National Audit Office report, Caring for Vulnerable Babies, of 19 December 2008, HC 101; and if he will make a statement. [231467]

Ann Keen: The issues raised in the National Audit Office report of December 2007 were the subject of a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) report, "Caring for vulnerable babies: the reorganisation of neonatal services in England", published in June 2008. A copy of the Government's Treasury Minute response (Cm 7453) to the PAC report, published on 16 October 2008, is available in the Library.

The Government are committed to the provision of safe, high quality neonatal services. While improvements have been made over recent years, we recognise there is still more to do. In the 2008-09 national health service operating framework we identified neonatal services as a priority and asked primary care trusts to ensure that sufficient numbers of neonatal teams are in place to meet local needs. In addition, the Department has established a Neonatal Taskforce, chaired by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, to support the NHS to identify and deliver further improvements to neonatal services. As part of its work programme, the Taskforce is working to develop quality standards for a comprehensive neonatal workforce and will develop targeted action plans to assist local decision making regarding staff shortages, incorporating skill mix, staffing levels, retention, recruitment and commissioning of education and training.

Medical Treatments

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatments have been considered but not recommended for use by the NHS by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the last five years; what conditions such treatments were principally intended to treat; and what judgment NICE reached on the efficacy of each such treatment. [231816]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table. It is not the role of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to assess the efficacy of drugs as this is a matter for the appropriate licensing authority.

Treatments not recommended in NICE'S published technology appraisals or only recommended for use in research

	Appraisal	*Condition*
November 2003	Anakinra (Kineret)	Rheumatoid arthritis
August 2005	Raltitrexed (Tomudex)	Colorectal cancer
September 2006	Paclitaxel (Taxol)	Breast cancer
November 2006	Memantine (Ebixa)	Alzheimer's Disease
January 2007	Bevacizumab (Avastin) and Cetuximab (Erbitux)	Colorectal cancer
January 2007	Fludarabine (Fludara)	Lymphocytic leukaemia
August 2007	Permetrexed (Alimta)	Non-small cell lung cancer
April 2008	Infliximab (Remicade)	Ulcerative colitis
April 2008	Abatacept (Orencia)	Refractory rheumatoid arthritis
August 2008	Telbivudine (Sebivo)	Hepatitis B
August 2008	Pegaptanib (Macugen)	Wet Age Related Macugen Degeneration (AMD)
October 2008	Raloxifene (Evista)	Primary Prevention of Osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has issued guidance to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the weight to be accorded to representations from patient groups in its evaluation of the value for money of treatments; and what weight was given by NICE to the representations of patient groups during its evaluation of sequential use of anti-TNF treatments. [231817]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not issued any guidance to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the weight that should be accorded to patient groups in its technology appraisals. NICE is an independent body and is responsible for the development of its methods. It consults with a wide range of stakeholders in the development of its methods and in the production of guidance, in accordance with its published processes.

Mental Health Services: Patient Choice Schemes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the rights to choose both treatment and providers outlined in the draft NHS Constitution extend to mental health. [231301]

Ann Keen: The draft constitution states that

> "you have a right to make choices about your NHS care. The options available to you will develop over time and depend on your individual need".

In the Handbook to the draft constitution it states that directions will be given by the Secretary of State under section 8 of the NHS Act to require primary care trusts to ensure that patients have a right to choose their providers. The directions will specify which services are covered by these arrangements and any exceptions. We have recently consulted on the draft constitution and the Constitutional Advisory forum will publicly report to the NHS Chief Executive and Ministers on the NHS consultation in due course.

We have conducted national consultations on choice in mental health, and recognise there is a strong demand from mental health service users for more personalised services. We are seeking to enable a choice of evidence-based psychological interventions to be available for people with more common mental health problems, like depression and anxiety disorders, entering new services.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to *(a)* reduce the number of people with mental health problems being sent to prison and *(b)* improve the quality and availability of mental health care in prisons. [231744]

Phil Hope: The Government have asked Lord Bradley to consider the diversion of offenders with mental health problems and learning disabilities away from prison and we look forward to considering his report which we expect will be available at the end of the year.

The Department, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, will publish its strategy "Improving Health Supporting Justice" next year, incorporating our views on the quality and future direction of health care in prisons following a public consultation. The strategy will take account of the recommendations that Lord Bradley will make.

This builds on the work already taking place each year over 500 mentally disordered offenders are diverted to secure hospital settings and over 900 people a year are transferred from prison if they need specialist treatment in hospital. In 2007, 28 per cent. more prisoners, with mental illness too severe for prison were transferred to hospital than in 2002—up to 926 from 723. Tighter monitoring identifies prisoners waiting an unacceptably long period for transfer to hospital, and a protocol has been issued setting out what must be done when a prisoner has been waiting for a place for more than three months following acceptance by the national health service.

All prisoners assessed at the point of reception into prison and those at risk of having a mental health problem, or vulnerable to suicide, are referred for a mental health assessment to the mental health in-reach team. Nearly £20 million per annum is being invested recurrently in mental health in-reach. There are 102 mental health in-reach teams with all prisons having access to them: a total of 360 extra staff altogether.

There are new systems to monitor and support those at risk of harming themselves and prison officers are being trained in mental health awareness. £600,000 has been invested over three years to 2009 to train frontline prison staff.

Furthermore, in relation to the small number of people with a severe personality disorder who are dangerous, the Department and Ministry of Justice is investing in special secure services. This programme has a capacity of over 300 places in two high security prisons (Frankland and Whitemoor); a female prison (Low Newton in Durham) and two high security hospitals (Broadmoor and Rampton). They provide essential clinical services for dangerous offenders whose offending is linked to severe personality disorder.

Midwives: Redundancy

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS midwives in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust have received redundancy notices in the last two years. [231104]

Ann Keen: Data are held at trust level. Hemel Hempstead General hospital is part of West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust. There were no compulsory redundancies for midwives at West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust in 2006-07 or 2007-08.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to improve healthcare services for those diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. [231630]

Ann Keen: The National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions was published in March 2005. This has already been planned in the Library. The framework describes the competences needed to deliver services for people with neurological conditions, including those living with multiple sclerosis (MS).

The MS risk-sharing scheme, a groundbreaking drug therapy initiative, is a joint venture between the Department, the devolved Administrations, and drug manufacturers. Launched in May 2002, there are now 62 prescribing centres for MS operating across the UK prescribing to more than 7,000 patients who meet the criteria of the Association of British Neurologists, including those with secondary progressive MS.

The Government have provided funding to increase the number of MS specialist nurses to help support the MS risk-sharing scheme. £800,000 was made available in 2003-04, 2004-05 and £1.2 million in 2005-06 to help meet the costs of employing extra nurses. This funding has now been confirmed for the remainder of the 10 years of the programme.

The new general practitioner contract includes a national enhanced service for people with MS, and those practices that are willing and able to provide this service are funded for:

production and maintenance of an up-to-date register of all patients; establishing a lead contact/co-ordinator; regular assessment; training for members of the primary health care team on issues related to MS; carer support; personal health plans; liaison with secondary care and social services; and an annual multi-disciplinary review.

National Child Health Immunisation Board

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the minutes of the 15 October meeting of the National Child Health Immunisation Board. [231931]

Dawn Primarolo: There was no National Child Health Immunisation Board meeting held on 15 October 2008. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation met on 15 October 2008, the draft minutes for this meeting will be available on the following website by 26 November 2008. Minutes are confirmed at the following meeting.

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/

NHS Units

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which NHS paediatric units have closed since 1997; [231864]

(2) which NHS midwife-led birthing units have closed since 1997; [231877]

(3) which NHS neonatal units have closed since 1997; [231897]

(4) which NHS consultant-led maternity units have closed in England since 1997. [231898]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many responses he has received to the consultation on the NHS constitution from *(a)* national organisations, *(b)* NHS staff and *(c)* members of the public, broken down by strategic health authority area of origin. [232038]

Ann Keen: We have received 1,008 responses to the consultation on the NHS constitution directly to the Department of Health. This included 174 from national organisations and 761 from individuals, of which 178 identified themselves as NHS staff.

It is not possible to break this down to give meaningful data on strategic health authority area of origin because individuals who responded directly to the Department were not asked to submit this information.

In addition to direct responses from individuals and organisations, primary care trusts have been holding local consultation processes that will have reached many more staff and members of the public. The results of these local consultation exercises will also be fed into the national consultation process through strategic health authorities.

Obesity

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* England have a body mass index which indicates obesity. [231809]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Figures for the UK are not available.

Information on the proportion of children aged two to 15 in England that are obese, broken down by age and broken down by Government office region and strategic health authority (SHA) is collected in the Health Survey for England. This information can be found in "Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 2 Obesity and other risk factors in children", Tables 2.2 and 2.3 on pages 35 and 36 which was published on 31 January 2008. This publication is available in the Library.

Further information on the proportion of children that are obese in England and in Warrington Primary Care Trust (PCT) is collected through the National Child Measurement programme (NCMP). The NCMP report provides high-level analysis of the prevalence of obese children, aged four to five years and aged 10-11 years.

This information is available in the "National Child Measurement Programme: 2006-07 school year, headline results" which was published on 21 February 2008. The prevalence of obese children in England is shown in table 1 (page 3). The prevalence of obese children in the Warrington PCT can be found in table C (pages 39-40). This publication has been placed in the Library.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of 16 to 25-year-olds who have been screened for sexually transmitted infections in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley borough and *(c)* non-metropolitan county of Hampshire in the last period for which figures are available. [231302]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are not collected in the format requested. Data for sexual health screens in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics are only currently collected by strategic health authority (SHA).

The number of sexual health screens, for all ages, in GUM in the South Central SHA, which covers Southampton, Test Valley borough and the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire, by gender for 2007 are given in the following table.

	2007
Male	35,312
Female	40,222
Total	75,534

Notes:

1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for sexual health screens conducted in GUM clinics only. Sexual health screens conducted in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.

2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of sexual health screens performed, not the number of patients screened.

3. Data are by area of GUM clinic and not patients' area of residence.

4. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns.

In addition, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) provides screening to asymptomatic people aged under 25 years in England and was launched in April 2003.

Data for the number of Chlamydia screens among those aged 16-24 years resident in Southampton City primary care trust (PCT) and Hampshire PCT as part of the NCSP during the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 are given in the following table:

	2007			*2008*	
	April to June	*July to September*	*October to December*	*January to March*	*Annual figure*
Southampton City PCT	487	462	679	812	2,440
Hampshire PCT	1,993	2,596	3,337	3,803	11,729

Notes:

1. The data from the NCSP Core Dataset are for Chlamydia screens made outside of GUM clinics only.

2. The data available from the NCSP are the number of screens made and not the number of patients screened.

Source:

The NCSP Core Dataset.

Smoking: Expenditure

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the effect on expenditure by his Department of the ban on smoking in public places and in the workplace; and what estimate he has made of the likely effect on such expenditure over each of the next five years. [231814]

Dawn Primarolo: Smokefree legislation was implemented in England on 1 July 2007. Since then, compliance rates have been high with over 98 per cent. of premises over the past year found to be compliant. The Department published the "Smokefree England - One Year On" report in July 2008 that overviews compliance, attitudes and the emerging health benefits from the legislation. This report is available in the Library.

The estimated costs and benefits of smokefree legislation are set out in the final regulatory impact assessment for smokefree regulations that is also available in the Library. It is still too early to make specific estimates on the actual longer-term impact of smokefree legislation on the Department's overall expenditure.

Independent academic research shows that smokefree legislation has dramatically improved the quality of air in pubs and bars. Findings from academic research in Scotland suggest that smokefree legislation can reduce the number of hospital admissions for heart attack, although research is still ongoing to identify similar benefits in England. Research published by Cancer Research UK in July 2008 suggested that smokefree legislation in England has helped at least 400,000 smokers to quit and will help prevent an estimated 40,000 deaths over the next 10 years.

The Department will undertake a comprehensive review of smokefree legislation in 2010.

Tuberculosis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* tuberculosis and *(b)* drug-resistant tuberculosis there were in England in each year since 2001, broken down by primary care trust. [231089]

Dawn Primarolo: The information has been placed in the Library. Validated data at primary care trust level for 2006 onwards, are not yet complete.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Domestic Violence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to improve conviction rates in domestic violence cases. [230811]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* We have a cross-Government National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan which provides a strategic framework to address domestic violence. One of the objectives is to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence which includes actions to increase conviction rates.

Work continues on those areas set out in our response to your parliamentary question earlier this year in relation to:

training and guidance for police officers and Crown prosecutors to improve investigations and increase successful prosecutions

funding for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers whose involvement with victims of domestic violence has been shown to reduce the number of victims unwilling to support a prosecution

expansion of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) Programme which recently reached a total of 104 accredited SDVCs across the country.

Driving Offences: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for driving without a licence or insurance in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [231102]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available information for proceedings and findings of guilt in magistrates courts for the offence of driving with~~out a licence~~ and using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks within Hertfordshire for the period 2002 to 2006 is provided in the following tables. Data are available at police force level only.

Table A: Proceedings and findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of driving without a licence[1], within Hertfordshire 2002-06

Number of offences

2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt
5,039	2,594	5,225	3,211	4,967	3,406	5,057	3,625	4,347	3,272

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 87 (1) and (2) as amended.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Proceedings and findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the 'offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks'[1] within Hertfordshire police force area, 2002-06

Number of offences

2002		2003[2]		2004		2005		2006	
Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt
6,612	4,191	7,216	5,078	7,463	5,382	7,763	5,716	7,641	5,849

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.143(2).

[2] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Electronic Surveillance: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what ground local authorities will have access to the new 12 month database of communications data; what approval process to access such data will be; and with regard to what types of offences local authorities will be able to access the data. [231025]

Mr. Coaker: We have published a consultation paper on the retention of internet communications data as the UK is required to complete the transposition of the European Directive 2006/24/EC by 15 March 2009. The proposal is for service providers to retain their data for 12 months, in line with the existing provisions for mobile and fixed line telephony.

Local authorities access to communications data will be unchanged. Under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 they can access subscriber data and billing data for the purposes of preventing and detecting crime and preventing disorder.

Emergency Services: Radio

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what organisations within her responsibilities *(a)* already are and *(b)* are planned to start using Airwave handsets. [230973]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Organisations for which the Secretary of State for the Home Department has responsibility and which are already using Airwave handsets are: the 43 police forces of England and Wales, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the National Policing Improvement Agency and the United Kingdom Borders Agency.

No other organisations for which the Secretary of State for the Home Department has responsibility are currently planning to use the Airwave service.

Genetics: Databases

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times personal profiles stored on the national DNA database have been released to *(a)* European and *(b)* other foreign governments since the database was established. [225488]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the number of occasions that personal profiles containing DNA data have been sent by the United Kingdom National Central Bureau for Interpol, (based, since April 2006, in the Serious Organised Crime Agency) could not be recovered without disproportionate cost.

Lancashire Constabulary: Special Branch

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional funding above the rate of inflation Lancashire Constabulary has received to fund Special Branch expansion since 2005. [220648]

Mr. Coaker: Specific funding is not provided to police authorities for the provision of in-country special branch units. Police authorities assign funding for these units from the funding available to them through the main police grant and locally raised police precept. A direct comparison between the 2005-06 and 2008-09 levels of main police grant would be misleading because the creation and discontinuation of a number of specific grants in this period have impacted on the level of main police grant, but not on the overall level of funding provided to the police. Nevertheless, since 2005-06 total Government grants to Lancashire police authority has increased from £210,385,869 to £243,114,829, an increase of £32,728,960.

Dedicated security posts (DSP) funding is provided to police authorities as a contribution to the costs associated with a number of security-related policing functions, including special branch units at ports. It is a longstanding policy not to disclose the capacity of special branches, including providing details of funding for individual forces. The percentage of the total DSP grant allocated to Lancashire constabulary has however, remained relatively static since 2005-06.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted for possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales in each police force area in each year since 1997. [230637]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 491W.

Police Patrolling

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours were spent on patrol by police officers in the latest period for which figures are available. [229827]

Mr. Coaker: Time spent on patrol is the time an officer is patrolling but engaged on no other duties. On this basis, and excluding data for Staffordshire, which are unavailable, 13.8 per cent. of police officer time was spent on patrol in 2007-08.

A fuller picture of the activities undertaken by a police officer will include not only time on patrol but also other core duties such as responding to 999 calls or community involvement activities. In 2006-07, 64.2 per cent. of police officer time was spent on such front-line duties. Time spent on front-line duties is measured across all forces and published annually. The 2007-08 figure is not yet available.

Police: Bank Services

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what percentage of the budget of each police authority in England and Wales was held in Icelandic bank accounts before the recent collapse of several Icelandic banks; [229038]

(2) what advice her Department has provided to police authorities in England and Wales which risk losing funds due to Icelandic banking turbulence; [229039]

(3) whether funding will be provided by her Department to cover any potential budget shortfalls in police authorities in England and Wales due to the loss of funds as a result of Icelandic banking difficulties; [229040]

(4) what guidance her Department has provided to police authorities in England and Wales on future investment policies. [229202]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

The Government have agreed an urgent plan of action with local authorities, including police authorities, for those facing funding difficulties as a result of the closure of several Icelandic banks. My officials are in close touch with the Association of Police Authorities about how we can best provide assistance to their members. We will judge what advice and support is needed on a case by case basis.

Guidance is provided by CLG which does not provide a list of individual banks or institutions. It is up to individual authorities to judge what a prudent investment might or might not be. The guidance says that local authorities should prioritise security and liquidity of investments.

Police authority investments in Icelandic banks

Police authority	*Budget requirement 2008-09 (£ million)*	*Investments (£ million)*	*Invested of Budget (Percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	259.47	0.00	0.00
Bedfordshire	96.06	0.00	0.00
Cambridgeshire	120.65	0.00	0.00
Cheshire	168.06	0.00	0.00
Cleveland	124.62	0.00	0.00
Cumbria	97.40	0.00	0.00
Derbyshire	157.22	0.00	0.00
Devon and Cornwall	268.08	0.00	0.00
Dorset	111.79	7.00	6.26
Durham	116.12	0.00	0.00
Dyfed-Powys	86.96	2.00	2.30
Essex	251.08	0.00	0.00
Gloucestershire	99.14	0.00	0.00
Greater Manchester	544.93	0.00	0.00
Gwent	114.30	1.00	0.87
Hampshire	294.19	0.00	0.00
Hertfordshire	178.22	3.00	1.68
Humberside	169.70	5.75	3.39
Kent	266.88	11.10	4.16
Lancashire	262.07	0.67	0.26
Leicestershire	164.70	0.00	0.00
Lincolnshire	100.64	0.00	0.00
Merseyside	317.10	0.00	0.00
Metropolitan	2,595.00	30.00	1.16
Norfolk	138.29	0.00	0.00
North Wales	129.42	0.00	0.00
Northamptonshire	114.80	0.00	0.00
Northumbria	277.82	3.50	1.26
North Yorkshire	132.21	0.00	0.00
Nottinghamshire	184.69	0.00	0.00
South Wales	240.30	7.00	2.91
South Yorkshire	246.61	0.00	0.00
Staffordshire	176.13	0.00	0.00
Suffolk	106.86	0.00	0.00
Surrey	191.50	1.50	0.78
Sussex	245.08	6.80	2.77
Thames Valley	356.10	5.00	1.40
Warwickshire	85.41	0.00	0.00
West Mercia	190.68	0.00	0.00
West Midlands	543.44	5.40	0.99
West Yorkshire	410.97	6.00	1.46
Wiltshire	99.28	0.00	0.00
Total England and Wales	10,833.99	95.72	0.88

Sources:
1. English Police Authority Budgets: DCLG
2. Welsh Police Authority Budgets: WAG
3. Investments in Icelandic Banks: Association of Police Authorities.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has carried out on the number of police hours saved through the introduction of personal digital assistants for police officers. [230590]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have recently provided £50 million to help facilitate the introduction of hand-held computers to frontline police officers. Although the roll out of these devices is still under way, feedback from frontline police officers has made us aware that the quicker (and easier) access to information has helped them to improve both their effectiveness and efficiency, thus enabling them to provide a better quality service to the public.

The National Policing Improvement Agency is working closely with individual forces on a comprehensive benefits evaluation programme with the objective to provide a robust and evidence-based evaluation of the significant investment in this technology.

We have also announced a further £25 million of funding for the second phase of this programme and we will report the outcome in due course.

Police: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid *(a)* by (i) employees and (ii) employers into and *(b)* to those receiving pensions payments from the Police Pension Scheme in each of the last five years. [229433]

Mr. Coaker: The present system of police pensions financing, under which each police authority pays employer and officer contributions into a separate account out of which pensions are paid, was introduced in April 2006. Where the income into the police authority pensions account from contributions and other payments such as inward transfer values is insufficient to meet the cost of pensions payment, it is topped up by Home Office grant. The information for the first two completed years under this system is given in the following table.

	2006-07 (audited)	£ million 2007-08 (unaudited)
Officer contributions	499	508
Police authority contribution	1,118	1,145
Pensions expenditure	1,970	2,085

Figures for the years before 2006-07 relate to the previous pay-as-you-go system of financing under which police pensions were paid out of forces' operating accounts. Information about the level of officer contributions, and pensions expenditure net of officer contributions is included in the annual reports published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This information is gathered independently of the Home Office.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers will have received payment from the Police Force Pension Fund in 2008 by the end of the year. [231138]

Mr. Coaker: The latest estimate given by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, in their publication "Police Estimates Statistics 2008-09" (ISSN 0144-9885), is of 121,567 police pensioners in England and Wales as at 1 April 2008.

Proscribed Organisations: Middle East

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which *(a)* armed Palestinian groups and *(b)* armed Israeli groups are proscribed in (i) the UK and (ii) the EU; [229900]

(2) if she will consider the merits of proscribing any armed Israeli groups proven to be associated with recent acts of violence against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. [229902]

Mr. Coaker: We do not comment on organisations not on the proscribed list, or on the prospect of particular organisations being added to the list. Decisions on proscription must be based on a belief that a group is concerned in terrorism as defined in the Terrorism Act 2000 and must be reasonable and proportionate.

The following Palestinian armed groups are proscribed by the UK: Abu Nidal Organisation; Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades; and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The following Palestinian armed groups are listed as terrorist groups or entities by the Council of the EU under Common Position 931: Abu Nidal Organisation; al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades; Hamas (including Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades); Palestine Liberation Front; Palestinian Islamic Jihad; and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (including PFLP General Command).

No Israeli armed groups are proscribed by the UK. Kahane Chai (or Kach) is listed by the EU.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been established for the extension of the Public Services Forum's Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government contracting agreement to local authorities; and whether the agreement will extend to local authorities in Wales. [230897]

John Healey: The Joint Statement currently applies to central Government contracts only. The impact of the statement on central Government contracts will be reviewed after six months of operation. The extension of the statement to other parts of the public sector will be subject to that evaluation and to further discussions with local government and other stakeholders.

Business Links: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's 2007-08 resource accounts, HC 791, what the nature of the financial irregularities in the Business Links projects funded under the Interreg programme is. [230711]

John Healey: My Department is currently investigating to establish the extent to which there are financial irregularities in relation to the Business Links projects funded under the Interreg programme, and, should there be irregularities, the nature and amounts concerned.

Community Development

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce proposals for third party rights of appeal in the forthcoming legislation on community enhancement. [230984]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have no plans to introduce a third party right of appeal in relation to planning decisions.

The introduction of a third party right of appeal would add complexities to the appeal system, which would be likely to translate into significant delays. A third party right of appeal would mean that planning permissions could not be implemented pending an appeal, resulting in delays and uncertainty for all. This would run counter to the Government's aim of increasing the efficiency of the planning system and to speed up decision making. Furthermore, the introduction of a third party right of appeal could be used perversely to veto many otherwise acceptable developments, which would bring benefits to local communities in terms of homes, jobs and regeneration of neighbourhoods.

Community Land Trusts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to promote community land trusts; and what plans she has for further legislation on the matter. [230710]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are absolutely committed to helping the development of Community Land Trusts that are well managed and financially robust.

We have supported 14 pilot projects across the country, through the Housing Corporation, which has also offered funding to Community Land Trusts to deliver affordable housing for sale and rent.

To provide clarity as to the nature of the CLT sector, we have defined community land trusts in the Housing and Regeneration Act. This again demonstrates the Government's commitment to enabling communities to tackle the problem of affordable housing in a way that meets local need.

We are now consulting on the wider policy issues affecting CLTs—for instance, what the criteria for financial support might be, and how to maximise the chances of a viable and well managed sector being developed. We also wish to consider the role that CLTs might play in both the urban and rural context and how perpetuity of community benefit should be ensured.

Council Housing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council houses there are in each local authority area; and what estimate she has of the cost to Government of transferring those homes to registered social landlords. [230047]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 982W.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority has received in *(a)* capital receipts from right-to-buy sales, *(b)* management and maintenance allowance and *(c)* minor repairs allowance in each year since 1990; and what estimate she has made of such local government receipts in the next 30 years, using the assumptions adopted in her Department's self-financing of council housing services modelling exercise. [230134]

Mr. Iain Wright: Tables have been placed in the Library of the House giving the figures for *(b)* and *(c)* above from 1997-98, the first year for which these data are available.

It is not possible for the Department to extract in tabular form the particular data requested at *(a)*, other than at disproportionate cost. However, it is possible to find information on capital receipts from Right To Buy sales for each local, authority in each year since 1998 from the following webpage:-

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-648.xls.

The Department does not hold the equivalent information for individual years prior to 1998.

To make projections for figures for management and maintenance allowance, and major repairs allowance for the next 30 years we would need to make assumptions on stock numbers over the period. In the self financing exercise these projections were produced by local authorities themselves and it would be burdensome to ask each local authority for these figures. Similarly those involved in the self financing exercise provided their own projections of receipts and it would be burdensome to ask all authorities for similar information.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on levels of council tax of the creation of additional parish councils and changes in parish precepts. [230300]

John Healey: We have made no such assessment.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on differential charging depending on payment method in relation to council tax; and what guidance has been issued to local authorities on the matter. [230462]

John Healey: The administration of council tax is a matter for local authorities. Regulation 26 of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/613) allows local billing authorities to offer a discounted council tax amount for non-cash payments. The Government have no plans to change this.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* her Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the Audit Commission has produced for local authorities on (i) council tax collection and (ii) council tax fraud. [230716]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government's predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, jointly published with the Government Operational Research Service a Council Tax Collection Good Practice Report in 2004. The report is on CLG's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/goodprac.pdf.

The report looks at ways of sharing good practice among practitioners in order to promote continuous improvement in service delivery and collection. Section 9.5 of Annex D to the report deals with fraud.

The Audit Commission published in 1995 a handbook on the collection of council tax in a publication, "Collecting Local Taxes: A Management Handbook". Copies are available in the Library. The Commission also issues guidance to local authority fraud investigators on how to follow up potential frauds and other anomalies identified through the Commission's data matching exercise, the National Fraud Initiative.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the collection of council tax payments by direct debit from bank accounts. [230890]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government's predecessor Department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister jointly published, with the Government Operational Research Service, a Council Tax Collection Good Practice Report in 2004. The report looks at ways of sharing good practice among practitioners in order to promote continuous improvement in service delivery and collection. Annex D of the report covers best practice on direct debits.

The report can be accessed via Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/goodprac.pdf

Council Tax: Arrears

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Government policy is on levying retrospective *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates. [230302]

John Healey: Listing officers and valuation officers are respectively required by law to maintain an accurate council tax valuation list and an accurate rating list; so they must make the necessary changes when they become aware that a change to the list is needed. Liability for council tax or business rates arises from the effective date of the alteration of the relevant list. This is governed by regulation 14 of the Council Tax (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/290) and regulation 14 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (England) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/659). We currently have no plans to change either of these regulations.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1949W, on council tax: valuation, what the value of the total payments made to Tenet Technology by the Valuation Office Agency in the last financial year for which figures are available was. [230142]

John Healey: No payments are made by the Valuation Office Agency to Tenet Technology.

Councillors: Code of Practice

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2080W, on councillors: code of practice, whether councillors who are members of an area committee that is administered by another council are required to *(a)* sign the code of conduct and *(b)* maintain a register of interests, in addition to the code and register that they have for the council to which they were directly elected; and whether her Department or the Standards Board for England has issued any advice or guidance on this issue. [230147]

John Healey: Councillors are bound by the code of conduct of any authority to which they are elected and must register their interests with that authority.

In circumstances where a councillor is serving on a joint committee established by two councils, the councillor is covered by the code of conduct of their own authority. The councillor does not have to register their interests with the other council in such a case.

If the councillor were serving on a committee of another council where the committee was not a joint committee, for instance if the councillor had been co-opted onto that committee, then the councillor would have to sign the code of conduct and register their interests with the local authority that had established the committee.

Data Matching Exercises

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Audit Commission has *(a)* prepared and *(b)* consulted on a code of practice on data matching exercises, further to Schedule 7 of the Serious Crimes Act 2007. [230543]

John Healey: The draft code was issued for consultation on 7 March 2008 for a 12-week period, closing on 30 May 2008.

The Commission's Code of Data Matching Practice was laid before Parliament on 21 July. A copy is available on the Commission's website at:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/codeofdmp.asp

This includes a list of the bodies consulted.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's Information Asset Register. [230687]

Mr. Khan: Departmental Information Asset Registers are available on the Inforoute website maintained by OPSI at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/iar/index.htm

The CLG page is under construction and will be added shortly with revised and updated content.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many invitations to tender her Department has issued in the last 12 months; and for what projects. [230655]

Mr. Khan: Communities has introduced an electronic tendering system that retains an audit trail of Invitations to Tender (ITT). In the last 12 months 111 tenders have gone through this system.

It should be noted that the systems has not yet rolled out fully throughout the Department and as the records of other ITTs are not held centrally the total of all ITTs issued could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has paid to external organisations to produce promotional materials over the last 12 months. [230872]

Mr. Khan: The Communications Directorate's expenditure on public information campaigns and centralised print-buying is detailed in the Department's annual report 2007-08, which is available in the Library of the House.

For details on expenditure with public relations agencies, I refer the hon. Member to information released on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedomofinformation/disclosurelog/disclosurelog2008/publicrelationsfirms/

and

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedomofinformation/disclosurelog/disclosurelog2008/februaryaugustmeetings/

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on entertainment by her Department in 2007-08; and how much of that sum is accounted for by expenditure on *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [231682]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 717W.

The Department's expenditure on hospitality could be broken down only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by her Department. [230892]

Mr. Iain Wright: From 1 October, buildings of more than 1,000 sq m occupied by public authorities and frequently visited by the public have had to display a Display Energy Certificate (DEC).

A copy of the Department's DEC and associated Advisory Report for Eland House have been placed in House Libraries. Eland House is the only building over 1,000 sq m occupied by CLG and has been showing a DEC since July.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government further to page 162 of her Department's Annual Report 2008, what the reason is for the increase in the unallocated provision in her Department's budget from £0 to £104.4 million by 2010-11. [230683]

Mr. Khan: The increase over the period to 2010-11 is the contingency which the Department has set aside to deal with unforeseen spending pressures. This is in line with the Treasury's consolidated budgeting guidance which encourages Departments not to allocate their departmental expenditure limits fully against their programmes at the start of a financial year.

Electromagnetic Fields

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether electromagnetic interference can be classified as a form of pollution for the purposes of Planning Policy Statement 23. [230684]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 23 does not include a definition of pollution and contains no reference to electromagnetic interference. An interpretation of whether electromagnetic interference can be classified as a form of pollution for the purposes of PPS23 would be a matter for the Courts to decide.

The Government's Environmental Permitting Regulations define pollution by reference to "emission" which is itself defined as the release of "substances, vibrations, heat or noise". The control of radio interference (including electromagnetic interference) through the planning system is covered in planning policy set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 "Telecommunications".

Empty Property: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes there are in the Eastbourne borough council area. [229994]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix submitted by the local authority to the Department shows the borough had 354 long-term empty homes on 1 April 2008. In 2007-08, the Empty Property Officer reported that 50 empty properties were returned to use as a direct result of action taken by the local authority and its partners, Eastbourne Homes Limited, using powers established by the Government.

Energy Performance Certificates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what evidential basis her Department decided to allow an energy performance certificate to have a maximum duration of three years. [230662]

Mr. Iain Wright: The consultation on this matter set out a range of scenarios for the duration of an EPC. Following the consultation Ministers decided to set a validity period of three years to allow the gathering of further evidence.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what types of residential property have required an energy performance certificate (EPC) in order to be *(a)* sold and *(b)* rented since 1 October; what guidance she has issued to the housing industry on the matter; and at what stage of the transaction an EPC is required. [230882]

Mr. Iain Wright: An EPC is required for the sale of all homes from 1 October 2008. The EPC must be made available for any home, free of charge, to a prospective buyer from 1 October 2008, at the earliest opportunity and in any event where any of the following happens:

When the building is viewed (even if that means providing the EPC before any written information is provided);

If written information about the building is provided as a result of a request by a prospective purchaser;

Before contracts are exchanged.

It is not placing a property on the market that defines the point at which an EPC must be available, but any of the aforementioned circumstances.

For rented dwellings, an EPC is required for a building or part of a building where the part is designed or altered to be used separately. For residential purposes 'designed or altered to be used separately' describes a unit that is self-contained, meaning that it does not share essential facilities such as a bathroom/shower.

Guidance and leaflets are available on the CLG website on homes for sale and rent.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether display energy certificates are to be compulsory for large buildings in the private sector. [230893]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have no current plans to do so. However a commitment was given to consult on whether such an extension should be made.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirement there is for an energy performance certificate to be *(a)* produced and *(b)* commissioned before a private dwelling may be offered for (i) sale and (ii) rental. [230896]

Mr. Iain Wright: There has been a requirement to provide a Home Information Pack containing an EPC from August 2007 for the sale of dwellings of four bedrooms and over, September 2007 for dwellings of three bedrooms and all remaining dwellings from December 2007.

The EPC must be made available for any home, free of charge, to a prospective buyer from 1 October 2008, at the earliest opportunity and in any event where any of the following happens:

> When the building is viewed (even if that means providing the EPC before any written information is provided);
>
> If written information about the building is provided as a result of a request by a prospective purchaser;
>
> Before contracts are exchanged.

It is not placing a property on the market that defines the point at which an EPC must be available, but any of the aforementioned circumstances.

You need to have commissioned the EPC in order for it to be available to ensure the aforementioned requirements set out are met.

For rented dwellings, the landlord must commission an EPC and ensure a copy of it, including the recommendation report, is available free of charge to prospective tenants at the earliest opportunity. As a minimum, this should be when prospective tenants are first given written information about a dwelling or are arranging to view it, and before any rental contract is entered into. A copy of the EPC must be given free of charge to the person who ultimately becomes the tenant before any rental contract is entered into.

Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role Firebuy Ltd. will play in FiReControl *(a)* projects and *(b)* procurement. [230455]

Mr. Khan: Firebuy Ltd. currently plays no role in relation to the FiReControl or Firelink projects. Future management of the service contracts for the projects, once they are up and running, is currently under consideration. In our consultation on the 2008-11 National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service, we invited views on whether Firebuy should play a role in this. The consultation closes on 14 November 2008.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable she has set for the publication of the latest version of the national business case for the FiReControl project. [230913]

Mr. Khan: The 2008 FiReControl "Business Case Part 2: The National Case" will be published later this year and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Fire Services: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the projected savings are of the new Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 as compared to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 for new entrants. [230356]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 723W.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many members of the fire service will have received payments from the Fire Service Pension Scheme in 2008. [231147]

Mr. Khan: Information is available in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's publication, "Fire and Rescue Statistics". The most recent edition, published in December 2007, recorded the estimated number of pensioners from English fire and rescue authorities in the two Firefighters' Pension schemes as 35,423 at 31 March 2008, together with estimates indicating that there would be a further 1,247 retiring from English authorities in 2008-09.

Firebuy Ltd.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what forecast she has made of the *(a)* [illegible]ts and *(b)* business-generated income of Firebuy L[illegible]008-09. [230459]

Mr. Khan: Firebuy Ltd. is forecasting *(a)* running costs of £2,000,000 and *(b)* business-generated income of £170,000 in 2008-09. Firebuy also estimates that it will help achieve £2,100,000 savings for fire and rescue authorities during this period.

Government Office for London

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of the Government Office for London is in 2008-09; and how many people it employs. [230480]

Mr. Khan: The budget for the Government Office for London in 2008-09 is £11,739,350; and the Government Office for London employs 231 people.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place for *(a)* examination and *(b)* searches for information on (i) home condition report and (ii) energy performance certificate registers; and which (A) individuals and (B) organisations are entitled to access to such information. [230881]

Mr. Iain Wright: Part 6 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2007 and subsequent statutory instrument on 1 October 2008 set out who can have access to the Register for Home Condition Reports and Energy Performance Certificates. Disclosure can be given to: the holder of a valid report reference number (RRN); an approved accreditation scheme operator; enforcement authorities; the Energy Saving Trust for domestic properties with an F or G rating; and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. In addition, energy assessors can search the domestic register by address. The commercial register may be examined to see whether a building has an EPC, although the EPC itself cannot be accessed or downloaded except by those who have access to EPCs as set out.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* set-up cost and *(b)* annual running cost of the Homes and Communities Agency. [230326]

Mr. Iain Wright: The costs of the Homes and Communities Agency are set out in the Housing and Regeneration Bill—Impact Assessment. This states that the one-off cost of setting up the Homes and Communities Agency will be £20 million over three years and identifies substantial synergies that will be released by the creation of a single housing and regeneration delivery body.

The HCA will be a merger of English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, the Academy for Sustainable Communities and key housing and regeneration programmes delivered by the Department. It will inherit a running cost budget (i.e. central and regional staff costs, accommodation, IT, etc.) from them of the order of £99 million per annum. This excludes revenue and capital Programme budgets and cost of capital.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what budget has been established for the Homes and Communities Agency in the first full year of its operation. [230328]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave earlier today (PQs 230326 and 230807).

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated annual budget is of the Homes and Communities Agency in each of the next three years. [230807]

Mr. Iain Wright: The HCA will combine the delivery responsibility of English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, the Academy for Sustainable Communities and key housing and regeneration programmes delivered by the Department, including Thames Gateway and Housing Market Renewal. The programme budgets the HCA is inheriting from them will give the HCA a combined budget, under current planning assumptions of:

for 2009-10 £4.6 billion; the HCA will advise the Department on the distribution of supported capital expenditure for the Arms Length Management Organisation programme of some £800 million;

for 2010-11 £3.8 billion; the HCA will also advise the Department on the distribution of supported capital expenditure for the Arms Length Management Organisation programme of some £800 million;

the HCA will also advise on the distribution of some £1.8 billion of PFI credits over the comprehensive spending review period (2008-09 to 2010-11).

The distribution of the HCA budget in 2009-10 and 2010-11 reflects the impact of measures outlined in the recent housing package announcement. Expenditure has been brought forward from later years.

Budgets beyond 2010-11 are a matter for the next spending review.

Housing Associations: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers housing associations have to borrow against their assets; and what restrictions apply. [230702]

Mr. Iain Wright: The constitutional documents of housing associations (for example, the Memorandum and Articles of Association for a company limited by guarantee) give them the power to borrow money in such manner as they think fit and to give such security as the company shall think fit. However, housing associations must operate in furtherance of their objects (which must be consistent with the permissible purposes specified in the Housing Act 1996). Section 9 of the Housing Act 1996 requires that the association must obtain the consent of the Housing Corporation to any disposal of its land by way of charge. In future, the consent of the Tenant Services Authority, the successor to the Housing Corporation as regulator of housing associations, will be required for the disposal of social housing, under section 172 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Housing Corporation has made of the aggregate financial value of the reserves of housing associations that it regulates. [230720]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation analyses the financial statements of (i) individual housing associations through its review of associations' viability and (ii) at an aggregate level in its annual publication, the Global Accounts of Housing Associations. This is available on the Corporation's website, at:

http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/Global_Accounts_2007.pdf.

At 31 March 2007, the reported aggregate value of housing associations' reserves stood at £13.6 billion. These figures are currently being updated and will be published in March 2009.

Of those reserves, a majority, £8.1 billion, relate to revaluation reserves, as a minority of housing properties are recorded at value rather than cost in the balance sheet. Of the remainder, £5.3 billion are reserves generated from historic surpluses. These surpluses are not represented by cash held by associations and have been invested in housing properties on the balance sheet.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the net number of new build dwellings which will be *(a)* completed and *(b)* started in (i) the calendar year 2008 and (ii) the financial year 2008-09. [230891]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government do not publish forecasts of housing supply. The latest house building statistics published in August 2008 showed that new build completions for England in the 12 months to June amounted to 161,100. New build starts over the same period totalled 147,500.

Housing: Debts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Housing Corporation holds relating to the housing debt of (i) local authorities and (ii) housing associations. [230344]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities manage their debt portfolios in aggregate and do not keep track of loans taken out specifically for housing purposes.

Communities and Local Government does not hold records of the housing debt of housing associations. Information from the annual accounts of associations provides information on the amount of outstanding short-term and long-term debt as at the association's year end, typically 31 March, and is then submitted to the Housing Corporation.

I refer the hon. Member to the Housing Corporation's publication "Annual Review of Housing Association Private Finance", available at:

http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.13530/changeNav/440

which provides additional detail on the arranged loan facilities and outstanding debt provided by each larger association (defined as those with 1,000 units or more or large group parent bodies).

In response to the present economic situation, the Housing Corporation collects quarterly information from a selection of associations that provides an update on current debt levels, the projected requirements for debt over the coming 12 months and access to debt funding.

The corporation also collects long-term financial forecasts covering a 30-year timeframe which provides information on longer-term debt requirements for each association based on its projected business activities.

Housing: Low Incomes

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average length of time taken was for a household to be provided with suitable housing after joining the socially provided housing waiting list in *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* Test Valley borough in each of the last two years; and how many households were on the socially provided housing waiting list in (i) Southampton and (ii) Test Valley borough in each of the last 10 years. [229561]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information for average length of time on a housing waiting list is not collected centrally.

Information about social housing waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than families. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists.

A table showing the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists for all local authorities in England from 1998 to 2007 is placed in the Library of the House. It is also published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls

The number of households on local authorities' waiting lists for (i) Southampton and (ii) Test Valley from 1998 to 2007 is given in the following table.

Number of households on local authorities' housing waiting: 1998 to 2007

	Number of households on the waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)									
	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Southampton UA	3,900	3,700	4,520	5,150	5,810	6,700	8,130	9,230	11,130	10,120
Test Valley	1,770	1,720	1,610	1,440	1,650	2,190	2,090	2,700	2,890	3,930

Note:
As reported by Local Authorities, excludes households looking for transfers. Rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

Local authorities in England report the number of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns.

The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need; it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the amount of social housing being sub-let within each local authority area. [229610]

Mr. Iain Wright: My Department does not require local authorities to submit data on sub-letting, so a reliable estimate cannot be given.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of changes in *(a)* the availability of mortgages for first-time buyers and *(b)* trends in house prices on the rate of take-up of the Government's (i) shared equity and (ii) shared ownership products. [230408]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Housing Corporation of the effect of the state of the housing market on low cost home ownership sales by social landlords. [230801]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department continually keeps under review the effect of house prices and the availability of mortgages on shared equity and shared ownership products.

Affordability remains an issue in many parts of the country. Our understanding is that mortgages are still available for first-time buyers under the Government's shared equity products, and there has been no slowdown in purchases related to these products. The following table shows take-up rates of shared equity products over the past 12 months.

Take-up rates of shared equity products

	Number
2007	
October	204
November	195
December	296
2008	
January	225
February	331
March	545
April	31
May	170
June	439
July	460
August	425
September	693

The picture on shared ownership is more mixed and reflects wider market conditions for new build homes. Registered social landlords (RSL) are reporting that this is leading to longer sales times for shared ownership products. The Council of Mortgage Lenders has issued a disclosure of incentive form which has been welcomed by the RSL sector as it should improve simplicity and transparency to prices, and increase lender's confidence.

The Government continue to keep the situation under close review.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2086W, on housing: low incomes, and with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 665W, on housing: low incomes, what assessment she has made of the reasons for the change in the number of housing associations offering Social Homebuy to their tenants between the dates of the answers. [230447]

Mr. Iain Wright: Originally 77 housing associations were awarded funding allocations by the Housing Corporation to offer the voluntary social homebuy scheme to their tenants during the two-year pilot period from April 2006. However, due to mergers and partnership arrangements, eight of these housing associations are not now recorded separately by the Housing Corporation, though they continue to offer the scheme.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of social housing dwellings are currently recorded on the National Register of Social Housing; and what the targets are in relation to data held. [230456]

Mr. Iain Wright: As at 24 October 2008 the National Register of Social Housing contained records of 1,949,759 units of social housing representing 48 per cent. of stock. This is 65 per cent. of local authority owned stock and 34 per cent. of housing association stock. The target is that all local authority stock and all stock owned by the larger housing associations should be captured by April 2009.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the National Register of Social Housing will include property attributes from non-social affordable housing. [230714]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Register of Social Housing will include non social rented dwellings provided by local authorities, housing associations or other agencies delivering affordable housing through Housing Corporation programmes. This includes Key Worker Housing and properties in shared ownership. The attributes collected will be the same as for social rented properties.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed transactions there were under each HomeBuy scheme in each month since April 2006, broken down by local authority area. [230730]

Mr. Iain Wright: Tables have been deposited in the Library of the House which show completions by month and location local authority for each HomeBuy scheme in 2006-07 and 2007-08 through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme.

The New Build HomeBuy figures include those homes completed through the previous Shared Ownership scheme. Social HomeBuy figures do not include those homes provided by local authorities operating this scheme.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what change there has been in the funds each regional development agency received for contributions to the Homeowner Support Package in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [230758]

John Healey: In September 2008 the Government announced that £300 million would be redirected from the Department's contribution to the RDA single programme budget to fund the HomeBuy Direct scheme. The change in indicative capital allocations for each Regional Development Agency, currently profiled as £25 million in 2009-10 and £275 million in 2010-11 is shown in the following table. RDA budgets in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are not funding HomeBuy Direct.

RDA Indicative Capital Allocations as a result of funding HomeBuy Direct

£000

	2009-10			2010-11		
RDA	*Indicative Allocation*	*Change*	*Revised Allocation*	*Indicative Allocation*	*Change*	*Revised Allocation*
AWM	136,021	3,229	132,792	132,709	35,520	97,189
EEDA	57,024	1,354	55,670	55,636	14,891	40,745
EMDA	74,869	1,777	73,092	73,046	19,551	53,495
LDA	185,625	4,407	181,218	181,105	48,474	132,631
NWDA	190,711	4,526	186,185	186,067	49,801	136,266
ONE	123,540	2,933	120,607	120,531	32,261	88,270
SEEDA	67,589	1,605	65,984	65,943	17,650	48,293
SWRDA	70,123	1,665	68,458	68,416	18,312	50,104
YF	147,586	3,504	144,082	143,992	38,540	105,452
Total	1,053,088	25,000	1,028,088	1,027,445	275,000	752,445

Housing: Overcrowding

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the pilot projects to tackle housing over-crowding. [231056]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2007-08 the Government funded five London local authorities to develop pilot schemes to tackle overcrowding. The early lessons learnt from the London pilots were published on the Communities and Local Government website in "Tackling Overcrowding in England: Lessons from the London pilot schemes and sub-regional coordination in June 2008".

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/tacklingovercrowdingengland.

In December 2007 the Government announced an additional £15 million funding over the current CSR period to tackle overcrowding in 38 local authority pathfinder areas across England, starting this year. The evaluation of the London pilots is informing the development of the overcrowding pathfinders' strategies and action plans.

Housing: Planning Permission

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planning process is for the sale of educational use land for residential use; and how much educational use land in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leicester East constituency has been sold for development for residential use in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) 10 years. [229054]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect the data requested centrally. The Land Use Change Statistics (LUCS) provides information on actual changes from one land use to another. However, statistics on where land changes from community buildings includes schools and colleges but also hospitals, police stations and prisons, while data on land changing from outdoor recreation include school playing fields as well as football pitches, golf courses and allotments.

For planning purposes land should be identified and allocated in local development frameworks, which is the overall planning strategy for the area. In some cases speculative applications, outside of the local development framework, may come forward—in which case they should be determined having regard to the overall direction in the framework.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of her Department's use of *(a)* a mix-adjusted house price measure and *(b)* other types of measure on estimates of house price inflation or deflation in a falling market. [230452]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government (CLG) has looked at differences between the CLG mix-adjusted house price index and other measures of house prices inflation or deflation in a falling market as published by Halifax and Nationwide and the Land Registry.

The main difference is that the CLG and Land Registry indices are based on mortgage completions, whereas the Nationwide and Halifax indices use mortgage approvals data. This means the CLG index is based on actual selling prices and as a result lags about two months behind the Nationwide and Halifax indices. This lag may be increasing with the downturn in the housing market as transactions take longer to complete.

Other differences between the indices exist but have less impact on the differences between the measures.

Housing: Private Finance Initiative

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have made representations to her Department on the effect of the economic situation on funding for private finance initiative housing schemes. [231409]

Mr. Iain Wright: My Department is in regular contact with all schemes on the housing PFI programme. The manner and topics of individual discussions cannot be disclosed for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Housing: Research

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisation is providing her Department with research into levels of housing need; and what the terms of reference of such research are. [230310]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has recently let a research contract on "Estimating Housing Need" to Heriot-Watt University. The research team is being led by Professor Glen Bramley.

Communities and Local Government officials produced a detailed specification of what will be required from the research. Broadly the aims of the research are to:

enable the Department to produce better estimates of housing need taking into account the normative nature and multi-dimensionality of need, and the need for housing related support; and

to do this through the production of a robust model which enables estimates of housing need to be provided and which can be easily adapted to examine different scenarios and assess the impact of varying assumptions.

Housing: Sales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department and its predecessors have taken to reduce the incidence of *(a)* gazumping and *(b)* gazundering. [230895]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have introduced home information packs which, by providing consumers with important information early in the house buying and selling process can help to reduce the opportunities for gazumping and gazundering to occur.

Housing: Solar Energy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential properties in the UK have solar panels; and what data her Department gathers on residential solar panel installation in other EU member states for benchmarking purposes. [224919]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

As part of a consortium of organisations including the microgeneration industry and energy NGOs, we commissioned research on the growth potential for microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland, which included current levels of uptake. It found that there were an estimated 90,000 solar thermal installations at the end of 2007. The research can be accessed at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

A further study which is due to be published shortly suggests approximately 105,000 installations to August 2008. These studies did not estimate how many were domestic or non-domestic installations.

We do not collect information on residential solar panel installations for benchmarking purposes with other EU countries. However the Annual PVPS (Photovoltaic Power Systems) Report sets out support for PV and installed capacity in EU countries. The report can be accessed at the website:

http://www.iea-pvps.org/

Housing: South Yorkshire

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid by local authorities in South Yorkshire to Bramall Construction Ltd. for housing stock renewal in each of the last five years. [231421]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold this information.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the mandatory roll-out of the Code for Sustainable Homes across each level in new build *(a)* social housing and *(b)* private sector housing. [230548]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Code for Sustainable Homes came into effect in April 2007 as the standard for sustainable new build homes in England. It is currently voluntary for the private sector to build homes to the levels set in the code unless they are building on English Partnerships' land (where they will need to build to at least code level 3), or are subject to a planning requirement.

However, the Government are committed to ensuring that all new homes are built to the highest levels of sustainability and as such in 2010 are increasing the energy efficiency standards set out in Part L (Conservation of fuel and power) of the Building Regulations and in 2009 introducing water efficiency into Part G (Hygiene). In addition all homes that are designed and built with funding from the National Affordable Housing programme will need to be built to code level 3.

Both English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation have committed to raising sustainability standards over time. English Partnerships stated that homes built on their land would need to be built to at least code level 4 from 2010 and code level 6/zero carbon from 2013. For the Housing Corporation their commitment was tied to the timing of the National Affordable Housing programme funding stream. Therefore they would require homes built to code level 4 from 2011 and code level 6/zero carbon from 2014 (subject to the technology needed being cost effective).

The new Homes and Communities Agency is currently considering how to harmonise the standards and commitments made by English Partnerships and Housing

Corporation and will, subject to a cost-benefit analysis, confirm the timetable for building to higher levels of the code in due course.

In practice homes are being built today to the higher levels of the code, both on English Partnerships' sites, with funding from the National Affordable Housing programme and by private developers. Code homes have been built or are going through the final assessment process at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum Code for Sustainable Homes level is that housing in eco-towns must meet. [230549]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 306W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum eco-standards for new homes built in the Thames Gateway area are; and what plans she has to change such standards over time. [230802]

Mr. Iain Wright: New homes built in the Thames Gateway must meet the same standards as in the rest of the UK. The long-term goal is to reduce UK carbon emissions by 80 per cent. by 2050. The intention is for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016, to be achieved through a progressive tightening of the energy efficiency standards in building regulations—with a 25 per cent. improvement on current standards in 2010 and a 44 per cent. in 2013—up to the zero carbon standard in 2016. Our planning policies on climate change enable councils to drive things further and faster than the national timetable through their planning strategies, where local circumstances warrant and allow this. In addition, homes built with funding from English Partnerships, Housing Corporation or the two Thames Gateway Development Corporations are required to be built to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3. We also announced in the November 2007 Thames Gateway Delivery Plan that we envisage the Thames Gateway as an eco-region. Work continues to develop the eco-region concept and next steps will be announced in a prospectus, to be published later this year.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1322W, on housing: sustainable development, if she will break down the number of homes assessed against the Code for Sustainable Homes at each code level by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association; and how many of the assessed homes were privately developed properties. [231246]

Mr. Iain Wright: Due to the time lag from when homes are registered, designed, built and assessed against the Code for Sustainable Homes there are only limited useful data available at present. As data become available they have to be further investigated and refined before we are in a position to release them on a regular basis. We therefore do not currently have data in the format that the hon. Lady has requested.

Housing: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been produced on vetting the eligibility of *(a)* second home, *(b)* empty home and *(c)* single person council tax discounts. [230785]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government's predecessor Department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister jointly published with the Government Operational Research Service a "Council Tax Collection Good Practice Report" in 2004. The report can be accessed via Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/goodprac.pdf

The report looks at ways of sharing good practice among practitioners, in order to promote continuous improvement in service delivery and collection. Section 9.5 of annex D to the report covers how best local authorities can tackle fraudulent claims for council tax discounts, including single person discounts and vacant properties.

Housing: Young People

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide a greater level of accommodation for those in the 18 to 21 age group. [230989]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's policies on increasing housing supply are intended to address the problems of housing affordability for all age groups. The Housing Green Paper published in July 2007 "Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable" (CM 7191) set out to address affordability issues and the need for more homes over the longer term.

Through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme we are investing £8 billion in the provision of affordable housing over the next three years, 2008-11. Part of this investment will deliver affordable housing for vulnerable groups including young people at risk and young people leaving care.

Lighting: Pollution

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent planning guidance has been provided on light pollution. [230464]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Stafford (Mr. Kidney) on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1363W.

Listed Buildings: Demolition

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Grade *(a)* I and *(b)* II listed buildings have been demolished in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [227965]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government does not collect information on the number of Grade I and II listed buildings that have been demolished.

Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition of *(a)* a rural and *(b)* an urban local authority is. [230337]

John Healey: The definition of rural and urban authority used in programmes and policies will vary according to the context or their objectives.

Local Authorities: Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's target is for the number of new local authority social dwellings to be constructed in the next 12 months. [230699]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have not set a target for the number of new social dwellings to be built by local authorities in the next 12 months.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities are buying unsold housing stock. [231203]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not at present hold records of purchases by local authorities of unsold housing stock.

Local Authorities: Insurance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities have powers to buy their insurance from mutual local authority companies set up to provide insurance to local authorities without having to put such contracts of insurance out to tender through the public procurement process. [230545]

John Healey: There is currently a case to be heard before the Court of Appeal brought by Risk Management Partners Ltd. against London borough of Brent concerning these matters. It would not be appropriate for the Department to comment until the court has handed down its judgment.

Local Authorities: Newspaper Press

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 966W, on local authorities: newspaper press, what steps have been taken since that answer was given to allow local authorities more discretion on how to best publicise matters in their area. [230554]

John Healey: In our White Paper "Communities in control: real people, real power" we recognised the importance of effective communication by local authorities and undertook to consult on potential changes to the "Code of Recommended Practice on Local Government Publicity", which we intend to do before the end of the year.

Local Authorities: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether joint waste authorities will be subject to oversight by *(a)* the Standards Board of England and *(b)* the Local Government Ombudsman. [230889]

John Healey: Joint waste authorities will be subject to oversight by the Standards Board for England, in the context of its role as the strategic regulator of the conduct regime for local authority members. They are within the jurisdiction of the local government ombudsman.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the NUTS 2 territorial groupings are being used to distribute the new round of funding from Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme; and why district councils are being treated differently from previous rounds. [230873]

John Healey: Proposals for a revised LABGI scheme were set out in the consultation paper "Reforming the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme", published on 28 August 2008 with responses invited by 20 November. Views are being sought on the grouping of authorities for the allocation of reward, the treatment of district councils and other aspects of the scheme. Responses to the consultation will be carefully considered before the scheme is finalised. Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the House of Commons Library. It can also be viewed on my Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/reforminglabgiconsultation

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria are used by the Public Works Loan Board to decide whether to lend to a local authority. [230521]

John Healey: To decide whether to lend to a local authority, the Public Works Loan Board asks the following two questions to the applicant nominated by the local authority's chief financial officer: Is your local authority complying with the appropriate requirements of the PWLB's current circulars? and Is this application within the relevant legislation of your council's borrowing powers? The answer to both questions must be 'yes'.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the maximum amount of funding lent to local authorities via the Public Works Loan Board each year is fixed, or varies according to the demand from local authorities. [230522]

John Healey: There is no fixed limit each year for funding to local authorities via the Public Works Loan Board.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is her Department's policy that the new burdens principle applies to the funding of town and parish councils. [230668]

John Healey: The Government's new burdens principles cover all types of local authority, including town and parish councils.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what circumstances additional income from fines, assuming constant staff costs, results in a cash-releasing value for money gain for the purposes of local authority efficiency reports. [230669]

John Healey: We have given councils clear guidance that additional income from fines, in itself, is never a cash-releasing value for money gain, available online at:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/965855.pdf

However, where the number of fines issued increases, an improvement in the effectiveness of staff may have occurred. Where this has happened, and councils are clear that standards of fairness and justice have been maintained, they may record a cash-releasing gain based on the cost of the staff employed (not the value of the additional fines imposed): the efficiency being recorded is in the use of staff time, not the income from fines.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether councils which have a smaller number of households claiming single person's council tax discount *(a)* receive greater net revenue from council tax receipts and *(b)* have their formula grant adjusted downwards relative to councils which have a larger number of households claiming single person's discount. [230784]

John Healey: Receipts from council tax will, among other things, be affected by the number of households claiming single person's discount. The basis of distributing formula grant is set out in the local government finance report that is published on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/lgfr0809s/index.htm

The number of discounts and exemptions, including the single person's discount, in an authority will be reflected in its council taxbase for formula grant setting purposes.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which county councils will receive the lowest possible increase in grant from her Department in 2008-09. [230880]

John Healey: As Parliament approved on 4 February, Surrey, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Hampshire, West Sussex, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex county councils will all receive 2 per cent. increase in formula grant in 2008-09. This is the minimum percentage increase for authorities with responsibility for education and social services in 2008-09.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effect of recent falls in stock market values on levels of local authority investment income. [230915]

John Healey: No central assessment has been carried out. Section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003 gives a local authority power to invest for any purpose relevant to its functions, or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs.

Local Government: Bank Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on investing funds in Irish-owned banks operating in the Republic of Ireland. [230657]

John Healey: We have provided no such guidance.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority has invested in Icelandic financial institutions. [230660]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1577W.

Local Government: Equal Pay

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the implications of the July 2008 Court of Appeal ruling on equal pay in local government. [230677]

John Healey: Local authorities, in their capacity as employers, are considering the potential implications of the recent Court of Appeal judgment in "Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council *v.* Bainbridge and Ors".

Communities and Local Government continues to monitor developments in this case with the local government employers.

Local Government: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an impact assessment has been produced to accompany her Department's proposals on local government bylaws and greater use of fixed penalty notices. [230520]

John Healey: As stated in the regulatory impact assessment for the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, available at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/healthact

> "All provisions in the Act went through the process of screening or an initial RIA so a clear understanding of the possible impacts of these measures could be obtained. The following provisions were deemed as having negligible impact and therefore required no further analysis."

The list of provisions includes byelaws. Hence, no impact assessment is required.

Local Government: Pay

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department provides to local authorities on the levels of local authority chief executive pay. [230664]

John Healey: This Department does not produce guidance on levels of local authority chief executive pay.

The Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives produces guidance on the national salary framework and conditions of service for local authority chief executives. Details of how to obtain the handbook are given on the Local Government Employers website at:

http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pageId=118995

Local Government: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider the merits of introducing cost-capping and cost-sharing agreements in relation to the recently introduced Local Government Pension Scheme analogous to those in place in schemes in the NHS and the Civil Service. [230352]

John Healey: The new benefit structure for the Local Government Pension Scheme was introduced by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 which were laid before Parliament on 4 April 2007. Regulation 40 of those Regulations already places a responsibility on the Secretary of State to produce guidance on managing future costs before 31 March 2009, with the intention of ensuring a sustainable and viable pension scheme which is fair to taxpayers.

An informal consultation on possible ways forward, developed with the Scheme's main interested parties, closed on the 30 May 2008. Following constructive discussions with stakeholders, a formal consultation will begin shortly on cost sharing arrangements specific to the needs of the LGPS to meet the regulatory timetable.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local government employees will have received payments from the local government pension scheme in 2008. [231148]

John Healey: Details of the number of pensioners in receipt of benefit from the local government pension scheme in 2007-08 can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/pensions.htm

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1994-95W, on local government: reorganisation, if she will provide a summary of the independent financial report's recommendations, with particular reference to those related to *(a)* cost overruns and *(b)* increasing net costs. [230154]

John Healey: My answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1994-95W, to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) explained that I have made clear to the House the independent financial report's conclusions on any restructuring for which we were seeking the House's approval. We have no plans to make public any further information from these independent reports which are advice to Ministers which is not generally released.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the coming into full operation of each new unitary council. [230460]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to answer I gave him on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1414W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will withdraw proposals for new unitary councils in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk. [230466]

John Healey: On 6 February we requested the Boundary Committee to advise by 31 December 2008 on certain matters relating to the unitary proposals made respectively by Exeter city council, Ipswich borough council, and Norwich city council. Any question about proposals for unitary local government in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk is therefore at present a matter for the Boundary Committee.

Local Government: Standards

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which indicators in the national indicator set have associated *(a)* targets and *(b)* aspirations for local authorities to meet. [230798]

John Healey: Targets against national indicators are set out in 150 individual local area agreements (LAAs). The indicators that have targets associated with them are therefore different to reflect the priorities in each area. Details on which national indicators have targets can be found at:

www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk

Mayors: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what evidential basis the supplementary vote was chosen as the electoral system for directly-elected mayors; and whether evidence was gathered on its use overseas. [230192]

John Healey: The decision to introduce the supplementary vote system for the election of the London Mayor in the Greater London Act 1999, had regard to consultation responses and research commissioned from Professor Partrick Dunleavey and Dr. Helen Margetts by the Government Office for London. A copy of their report—"Report to the Government Office for London: Electing the London Mayor and the London Assembly" is in the House of Commons Library.

This was extended to directly elected mayors through the Local Government Act 2000.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records her Department holds of the licensing fees charged by local authorities for registration of houses of multiple occupation; and what estimate she has made of the variance in the level of fees between local authorities. [230546]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under section 63 of the Housing Act 2004 local authorities have the discretion to set their own HMO licence fees but these fees must reflect the actual costs to the local authority of HMO licensing. Local authorities are therefore able to recover the full cost of licensing from the licence fee, but are not allowed to use fees to raise funds for other projects.

There is no statutory requirement under the Housing Act 2004 for local authorities to provide data on the licensing fees charged. The Department has however requested local authorities to provide data on the licensing fees charged via the National Register of Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation (ROLHMO) database. Officials are assessing the accuracy of the data provided. The Building Research Establishment (BRE) has also been commissioned to review the implementation of HMO licensing which will include a consideration of fees charged.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what circumstances *(a)* discretionary and *(b)* mandatory licensing of houses of multiple occupation may be imposed on private properties. [230794]

Mr. Iain Wright: All houses in multiple occupation (HMO) that are of three or more storeys, housing five or more persons, forming more than one household are now subject to mandatory HMO licensing. Local authorities also have the discretion to introduce additional HMO licensing schemes to cover smaller HMOs where they have identified problems such as poor management standards and property condition. The use of this discretionary power is subject to local consultation and departmental approval.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 351W, on non-domestic rates: ports, if she will place in the Library a copy of the new business rate valuation lists for each of the ports, following the recent changes made by the Valuation Office Agency. [231972]

John Healey: The 2005 non-domestic rating list is published on the web site of the Valuation Office Agency and is available to inspect at

http://www.voa.gov.uk/index.htm.

A single rating list has been compiled for each billing authority area but the Valuation Office Agency do not hold separate lists of properties attributable to smaller locations.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 351W, on non-domestic rates: ports, what the business names and addresses are of each of the ports or shipping firms that the Valuation Office Agency has retrospectively revalued. [231973]

John Healey: The provisions of Sections 17 to 19 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 require the Agency not to disclose ratepayers' names even where they are known.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1427-28W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, what the average size of a sub-location is; and how many sub-locations there are in England. [230125]

John Healey: It is not possible to identify the average size of a "sub-location", which in effect is a VOA description for a particular class of property having similar characteristics. A sub-location will define a particular group of properties, ranging in number from a single property to many over a wide—but not necessarily geographically continuous—area.

In round terms there are some 90,000 differently coded sub-locations in use within England.

Ordnance Survey

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial targets were set for Ordnance Survey for the latest period for which figures are available; and what outcomes were achieved against those targets. [229486]

Mr. Iain Wright: As set out in Ordnance Survey's annual report and accounts published in July 2008, Ordnance Survey was set a financial target for operating profit before interest and dividends of £14.6 million for 2007-08. Actual performance against this target was £22.5 million.

Ordnance Survey: Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many invitations to tender Ordnance Survey has issued in the last 12 months; and for what project in each case. [230458]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey issued 18 invitations to tender in the 12 months to 30 September 2008. The projects involved were in the following categories:

Category	*Project*
Data Collection	Intelligence of Landscape Change Upgraded 'OSNet' GPS Base Station System
Information Technology	Preferred Supplier Status—IT goods and associated services Pen Tablet Computers

Category	*Project*
	Web Services
	Satellite Navigation System
Sales and Marketing	Marketing Services
Production	Print Management Solution
	Supply of Map Printing Paper
	Computer-to-Plate System
	Printing Plates
	Map Cover Board
	'Six Sigma' Lean Engineering
Storage and Distribution	Postal Packaging Materials
	Fulfilment Services
Staff development and training	Training Services
	Reward and Recognition Services
	Leadership Training Services

Place Surveys

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance her Department has provided on the procurement process by which local authorities should employ opinion research companies to undertake the new place surveys; [230676]

(2) whether local authorities will be required to carry out place surveys; [230721]

(3) what questions are *(a)* optional and *(b)* mandatory in a Place Survey; [230729]

(4) what information is required to be covered in a Place Survey questionnaire. [230912]

John Healey: The biennial Place Survey is being carried out in all local authority areas from 2008. The information requested is set out in the Place Survey Technical Manual, which is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/placesurveymanual0809

A copy of the Technical Manual has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost is of local authorities producing and compiling place surveys over the next three years. [230717]

John Healey: The Place Survey consultation, which is available at

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/newplacesurvey

shows the estimated cost of local authorities conducting the biennial Place Survey to be £15 million over three rounds.

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many documents produced by her Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230506]

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many documents produced by her Department and its predecessors were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231112]

Mr. Khan: The Department was created in May 2006. Since then the Department's Communications Directorate has produced three documents for Crystal Mark status:

Regulatory reform (Fire Safety Order 2005) - A short guide to making your premises safe from fire (Published June 2006).

Local choice, local control: Statutory guidance on tenant management for local authorities and local authority tenants (Published October 2008).

Residents' choice: Guidance on tenant management and other options supported through the Tenant Empowerment Programme (Published October 2008).

All these documents are available on our website.

Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the report produced by Ove Arup and Partners on the consultation responses to the Planning White Paper. [229681]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning White Paper, "Planning for a Sustainable Future", was published on 21 May 2007. Communities and Local Government commissioned Ove Arup and Partners to summarise and analyse the formal responses to the Planning White Paper. Their report, "Analysis of Responses: Background Report A", is available on the CLG website, but was not placed in the Library of the House. The Department also received a range of other comments, from a variety of sources, on the Planning White Paper proposals more generally. The report on these views, "Analysis of Responses: Background Report B", is also available on the CLG website.

The Government response to the White Paper, which summarises the results of the consultation, including those analysed in the Arup report, sets out the Government's overall response on key issues emerging from the White Paper consultation and next steps in relation to the Planning Bill, is available on the CLG website and copies were placed in the Library of the House.

However, we will ensure that copies of the Arup Report are also placed in the Library of both Houses.

Planning Gain Supplement (Preparations) Act 2007

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward legislation to repeal the Planning Gain Supplement (Preparations) Act 2007. [230556]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Prime Minister stated in July 2007 that the main Planning-gain Supplement Bill was provisional because if a better alternative was found the Government would be willing to defer it from the current legislative session. Following discussions with the development industry, the Government deferred the introduction of a Planning-gain Supplement Bill from this parliamentary session to take forward CIL in preference.

The Planning-gain Supplement (Preparations) Act 2007 is three sections long and cannot be used to introduce PGS. It does not set out the detailed policy, nature or operation of PGS. Its sole purpose is to allow certain authorities to spend money in order to prepare for the introduction of PGS, for example to develop IT systems. In the event, no expenditure has been incurred in relation to PGS which would not have been permitted in the absence of the Preparations Act.

There is no need to repeal the Preparations Act as it is a narrow preparations measure designed to ensure the regularity and probity of Government expenditure in accordance with the usual Government accounting rules.

Planning Inspectorate

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Planning Inspectorate's inspectors' handbook. [230688]

Mr. Iain Wright: A copy of the Inspectors' Handbook has been placed in the Library of the House.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on certificates of lawfulness for developments with permitted development rights. [230194]

Mr. Iain Wright: Guidance on lawful development certificates is contained in DoE Circular 10/97 "Enforcing Planning Control: Legislative Provisions and Procedural Requirements". Developers would apply for a certificate under section 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to establish that a proposed development benefits from permitted development rights.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she gives to planning authorities on the application of planning policy guidance or planning policy statements to planning applications in circumstances where a submitted application is subject to appeal and a relevant item of guidance or statement has undergone substantive revision between the date of the initial application and the appeal hearing. [230416]

Mr. Iain Wright: Guidance set out in 'The Planning System: General Principles' states:

> "Emerging policies, in the form of draft policy statements and guidance, can be regarded as material considerations, depending on the context. Their existence may indicate that a relevant policy is under review; and the circumstances which have led to that review may need to be taken into account."

The aforementioned guidance is relevant to the decision taker at the time, whether that be local planning authorities or the Secretary of State, and can be found on Communities and Local Government website via the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningsystem

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what procedures are in place to ensure that local planning authorities take appropriate action to enforce planning control decisions; [231050]

(2) what steps the Department has taken in relation to those local authorities which fail to take enforcement action against developers who flout planning controls; [231051]

(3) what steps she plans to take to enforce planning regulations applicable to the Quinn Glass plant in Elton and Ince; [231052]

(4) what steps she is taking to require Chester City Council to enforce planning regulations relating to the Quinn Glass plant in Elton and Ince; [231053]

(5) what steps her Department takes to ensure that *(a)* large-scale developments obtain appropriate planning consent prior to construction and *(b)* that enforcement action is taken to prevent any potential unfair competitive advantage being gained as a result of progressing development without proper permission; [231081]

(6) what representations she has received on the legality of the continued operation of the Quinn Glass plant at Elton and Ince and the status of planning permission in relation to the plant; [231082]

(7) what steps she intends to take to enforce the decision of her predecessor that Quinn Glass should not gain any advantage from the fact that their plant had already been built and commenced operation. [231209]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities have a wide range of discretionary enforcement powers to enable them to deal with unauthorised development that is harming amenity in the neighbourhood. If they consider that unauthorised development is unacceptable on planning grounds, they have the power to take enforcement action. It is for the local planning authority to decide in each case which is the most appropriate course of action, taking account of local circumstances. Guidance is available to local planning authorities in PPG 18 "Enforcing Planning Control" and DoE Circular 10/97 "Enforcing Planning Control: Legislative Provisions and Procedural Requirements" with its accompanying Good Practice Guide.

A second retrospective planning application for the development at the Quinn Glass plant at Elton was submitted to the Chester city and Ellesmere Port and Neston borough councils on 30 January 2008, and has yet to be determined.

Representations have been received from Mr. Mark Humphreys that concern the legality of operations at the plant. Representations and requests to call-in the previous planning application have also made reference to the operation of the plant without the benefit of planning permission.

A request that the Secretary of State should call-in the application was also received, on 12 May 2008, from the agents acting on behalf of Ardagh Glass Ltd. (formerly Rockware Glass Ltd.), a company based in South Yorkshire. The Secretary of State issued an Article 14 direction on 16 June 2008. This will ensure that she has a formal opportunity to consider the possibility of determining the matter herself by calling in the matter should the two local planning authorities be minded to grant planning permission.

I can make no comments on the merits of this case as it may yet come before the Secretary of State for her determination.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether companies who are registered in tax havens may sell planning permissions awarded in this country; and if she will make a statement; [231193]

(2) whether companies registered in other countries may sell planning permissions awarded in this country; and if she will make a statement. [231194]

Mr. Iain Wright: The town and country planning system is designed to regulate the development and use of land in the public interest. It is concerned only with whether a proposed use of a site is acceptable in land-use planning terms. The system works on the principle that if permission is granted to one applicant it should be available to anyone else wishing to develop the site in the same way. This means that land with the benefit of planning permission could be sold, whether the land owner is based in the UK or abroad.

Planning Permission: Data Protection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances individuals may submit objections to planning applications without their names and addresses being made available to the public. [230674]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities have a statutory duty to place planning applications on a planning register. Part I of the register is used for applications not yet decided together with copies of plans and drawings. After determination of the application, the decision, by the local planning authority should be placed on Part II of the register. The full requirements are set out in Article 25 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.

Disclosure of other information is discretionary. Most local planning authorities elect to publish the comments of objectors and others who make representations about a proposal which would normally include their names and addresses. However, details of an objector's name and address could be withheld if there are good reasons to do so and no overwhelming public interest in making the information public. Guidance jointly produced by this Department and the Information Commissioner can be found on the Planning and Regulatory Services Online (PARSOL) website at:

http://www.parsol.gov.uk/planning_advice_1.htm

Planning: Departmental Cooperation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she plans to have with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on implications for climate change of the provisions contained within the Planning Bill [230983]

John Healey: The Planning Bill, together with the Energy Bill and Climate Change Bill is a key part of the Government's strategy to accelerate the UK's transition to a low carbon economy and enable us to meet the challenge of climate change.

The Bill's provisions for nationally significant infrastructure were developed jointly with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and the Department for Transport, and we will continue to work closely with these Departments, and the new Department of Energy and Climate Change, as the legislation progresses.

Poverty

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding streams provide resources to tackle deprivation in super output areas. [231752]

John Healey: The following table provides a list of funding streams through which Communities and Local Government will provide £847 million in 2008-09 to tackle deprivation. It is not possible to identify exactly how much money from each of the funding streams is targeted exclusively at the most deprived super output areas as some activities may be district wide.

Funding stream	*2008-09 spend (£ million)*
Working Neighbourhoods Fund	450
New Deal for Communities	242
Local Enterprise Growth Initiative	103.2
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	92.1

Redress Review

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the terms of reference are of the Redress Review; and what forms of redress will be reviewed; [230454]

(2) what the timetable is for the Redress Review; who is conducting the review; and what evidence is being considered as part of the review. [230876]

Mr. Khan: The Redress Review will consider redress arrangements across public services and the private sector to look at whether and how to introduce and extend the idea of redress for citizens where their council services fail to meet agreed standards. The full terms of reference are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/communityempowerment/communitiesincontrol/redressreview/

This review is being chaired by David Cook (chief executive of Kettering borough council) and is due to report to the Secretary of State in early 2009.

Regional Planning and Development: West Midlands

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library the report on the draft West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy commissioned from Nathaniel Litchfield and Partners by the Government Office for the West Midlands; what recommendations the report made in respect of building on green belt land; and what the cost to the public purse of the report was. [230816]

Mr. Khan: The Nathaniel Litchfield and Partners study is evidence to demonstrate where additional housing growth could be accommodated. The study has concluded that it is possible to deliver higher levels of housing than the levels proposed in the submitted Regional Spatial Strategy. The study sets out three scenarios which demonstrate where additional housing growth could be accommodated in the region. Scenarios are not site specific rather they assess the potential for additional growth to be accommodated within local authority areas.

The study has suggested that additional housing growth in Solihull and Bromsgrove would require green belt amendments. In Birmingham, Rugby and Warwick there may be a need for green belt amendments. This will ultimately depend upon the precise location and level of growth. The housing growth scenarios are not definitive proposals; merely an independent assessment of where additional housing could be accommodated. No decision has been made on the merits of the different scenarios and the Government have still to take a view on the study which they will do in their formal response to the Phase 2 revision.

Discussions are still ongoing following the completion of the study and therefore costs have yet to be finalised.

A copy of the report will be deposited in the Library of the House.

Rented Housing

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of tenants of private landlords where the landlord has a buy-to-let mortgage on the property occupied by the tenant. [231810]

Mr. Iain Wright: In January this year, Ministers commissioned Julie Rugg and David Rhodes of the centre for housing policy at the university of York to carry out an independent review of the private rented sector. The review team presented their findings on 23 October. Their report states that most recent records (drawn from the Council of Mortgage Lenders) indicate that, at the end of 2007, there were 1,024,300 outstanding buy-to-let mortgages. In the same year, mortgage advances for buy-to-let totalled 17 per cent. of total number of advances, including to home owners. In 2006 (the last year for which the relevant data are available), when the number of outstanding buy-to-let mortgages was 849,900, this constituted an estimated 28 per cent. of the total private rented stock. We do not hold data on whether all the properties covered by these mortgages are occupied by tenants.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to protect the residency of tenants within the private rented sector in circumstances where their landlord has defaulted on a buy-to-let mortgage and the lender wishes to sell the property to recover mortgage arrears. [231811]

Mr. Iain Wright: We believe it is good practice where possible for the lender to let the tenancy run and use the rental payments to cover the mortgage repayments until the end of the tenancy or where the tenancy has become a periodic tenancy to give the statutory two-month notice period as a minimum. Where this is not possible, we would hope that as a matter of best practice, the mortgage lender would feel able to keep the tenant informed and to give them as much notice as possible if they have to find alternative accommodation.

Officials in the Department are in discussions with the Council of Mortgage Lenders to explore ways in which best practice can be implemented and tenants can be kept better informed in these situations.

If a tenant becomes homeless as a result of their landlord's failure to keep up with mortgage payments, the local council should be able to help in terms of providing temporary accommodation and assisting the tenant in their search for somewhere to live.

Small Business: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to promote the take-up of small business rate relief; and if she will take further measures in light of the current economic climate. [230550]

John Healey: It is for local councils to promote the scheme to local businesses. Communities and Local Government sent a business rates information letter to all local authorities in England on 19 September 2008 to remind them that they should, where possible, encourage businesses to apply for the relief. There are no present plans to take further action.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated take-up rate is of small business rate relief. [230878]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 901W.

Standards Board and Adjudication Panel: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated annual budget of the Standards Board and Adjudication Panel will be in each of the next three years. [230682]

John Healey: The Standards Board for England's estimate of its and the Adjudication Panel's annual budgets for the next three years are contained in the Standards Board's Corporate Plan, available on the Standard Board's website at:

www.standardsboard.gov.uk.

Waste Disposal: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Empowerment White Paper's proposals for local government byelaws will give greater scope for waste collection authorities to issue fixed penalty notices for waste offences. [230877]

John Healey: No.

Waste Disposal: Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether municipal rubbish and recycling facilities are liable for business rates; and what the criteria are under which the liability of such a facility is determined. [230796]

John Healey: All facilities for the management, recycling and treatment of the municipal waste stream are subject to business rates. For the majority of such facilities, the rateable value is arrived at on a 'rentals plus' valuation approach. This is one in which a contractors basis assessment of the existing buildings, plant, machinery, site infrastructure and other site improvements is added to the rental value for the bare site to arrive at its overall rateable value. For a lesser number of facilities, primarily energy from waste and transfer stations, their rateable values are determined by reference to either a full contractors or rentals valuation approach.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will amend the planning application process for wind farms so as to require assessments of *(a)* the suitability of topography, *(b)* meteorological viability and *(c)* economic viability. [231298]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our planning policy statement (PPS) on climate change expects planning authorities to provide a framework that promotes and encourages renewable energy. The PPS advises planning authorities that they should not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable energy because new renewable energy projects provide crucial national benefits. Planning authorities are also asked not to question the energy justification for why a proposal must be sited in a particular location as this involves considerations of technical and commercial feasibility (including meteorological and economic viability) which are for the developer concerned.

When determining planning applications, planning authorities should address the planning issues which arise from the proposed location of renewable energy projects, including the suitability of the topography. These concerns are set out in our published planning policy statements and guidance, together with the wider environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy projects that should also be taken into account.

Youth Advisors Panel

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what criteria the members of the Youth Advisors Panel will be chosen; whether they will be paid; and whether they will be required to complete a declaration of political activity. [230555]

Mr. Khan: The nine members of the Youth Advisors Panel applied and were selected from the national pool of 300 trained Young Advisors to get broad regional representation. Young Advisors are aged between 15 and 21 and work as young consultants in their local communities. The Young Advisors Charity reimburses the panel for their travel expenses and time. They are not appointments which the Commissioner for Public Appointments has a remit to regulate and are therefore not required to sign a declaration of political activity.

Youth Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage local authorities to improve community facilities for children and young people; [231569]

(2) what recent work the Government have undertaken with youth groups and community groups to improve local facilities. [231571]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to investing in facilities for children and young people. "Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities", which was published in July 2007, announced the launch of a programme of capital investment based on new Government investment and the reinvestment of unclaimed assets from dormant bank accounts. Our ambition is that this will lead to new and improved youth facilities in every constituency over the next 10 years. To kick start this process, we have launched "myplace" to deliver £190 million of Government investment over the next three years, "myplace" will deliver world class youth facilities in cross-sector partnership, driven by the active participation of young people and their views and needs.

The Children's Plan, published in November 2007, announced new investment of £225 million for play over the CSR period 2008-11, and in April we committed a further £10 million to this agenda. This will fund up to 3,500 public play areas and 30 staffed adventure playgrounds nationally, with a priority on provision for eight to 13-year-olds: 30 pathfinder authorities will receive on average £2.1 million of capital and £500,000 of revenue each; and every other authority will receive on average £1 million capital and a small revenue grant.

Our aim is that these programmes drive a transformation in the way facilities for children and young people are planned and delivered—particularly with regard to the role and influence of young people and the level of genuine cross-sector partnership working.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Architecture: Urban Areas

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much public funding has been provided to the Cityware project through the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council; and for what purpose. [230793]

Mr. Lammy: The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has awarded three linked grants for the Cityware project to the University of Bath, Imperial College and University College London. The project aims to develop theories, principles, tools and techniques to take account of people, architecture and technologies in the design of new digital systems.

These grants were funded through responsive mode, where researchers can submit proposals in any area of EPSRC's remit, and were assessed by peer review to be of high quality. The total value of the grants is £1.3 million over the period October 2005 to August 2009.

Art Works: Royalties

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many responses were received to the recent consultation paper on the Artists' Resale Right derogation for deceased artists; how many submissions from artists and others supporting the case for 2010 were received; and when he plans to put the submissions from artists into the public domain. [231751]

Mr. Lammy: Some 400 responses were received to the recent consultation paper on the Artist's Resale Right derogation for deceased artists. About 90 per cent. of the responses supported extending artist's resale right to deceased artists from 2010. In due course we will be publishing a summary of the responses to the consultation.

British Standards Institute

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what Minister is responsible for his Department's Memorandum of Understanding with the British Standards Institute. [231220]

Mr. Lammy: Responsibility for the Department's Memorandum of Understanding with the British Standards Institution falls within Lord Drayson's portfolio as Minister of State for Science and Innovation.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of 17 to 20-year-olds have entered part-time higher education; and what proportion entered to undertake *(a)* first degrees and *(b)* other undergraduate qualifications in the most recent period for which figures are available. [232401]

Mr. Lammy: Everyone with the talent and ambition to enter higher education should be able to benefit from the opportunity and to choose the pattern of study which best meets their needs. The numbers entering part-time higher education are at record levels and part-time study is particularly popular with adults over the age of thirty.

The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It can be broken down to cover those aged 17 to 20. In the 2006/07 academic year, the participation rate for 17 to 20-year-olds entering part-time higher education courses was 1.5 per cent.

The figures in the following table show participation rates for 17 to 20-year-olds entering first degree and other undergraduate courses broken down by mode of study.

Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) for 17 to 20-year-olds by level of study and mode of study, UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges—Academic year 2006/07

Percentage

Level of study	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
First degree	27.1	0.4	27.5
Other undergraduate	2.1	0.7	2.9

Notes:

Due to rounding components may not sum to totals. The HEIPR covers English-domiciled first time entrants to higher education courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, and who remain on their course for at least six months.

Source:

Underlying data for "Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/2000—2006/07 (Provisional)". Statistical First Release, published by DIUS (2008).

Higher Education: Closures

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information he holds on the number of university departments which have closed in the last five years; how many he expects to close in the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [231815]

Mr. Lammy: The precise information requested is not collected centrally. Higher education providers are free to decide which departments should open, close, contract or expand in the light of student demand, their relative strengths and competition from other providers.

However, in relation to departmental closures involving vulnerable subjects of strategic importance, it has been our policy for some time that HEFCE and institutions should have early conversations to enable the transfer of provision between institutions to protect the interests of students and to seek to maintain capacity at regional and national level. The Government are pleased with the collaborative approach which institutions and the council have successfully adopted in relation to sustaining strategically important vulnerable subjects.

Higher Education: Research

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the timetable is for publication of the reports by the nine higher education review groups. [232266]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS has received the nine contributions to the HE Debate. I have been impressed not only by the quality of input, but also by the scale of consultation each contributor has managed and I am grateful for their hard work. We will be publishing these contributions soon.

The debate that has been started by these strands of work underlines the ability of the higher education sector itself to think radically and creatively about the future. But many other people too have a huge interest in the success of our universities and colleges. That is why the next stage in the debate is for a group of people whose cultural activities, businesses, public services depend on the success of our universities to articulate their perspective on what a world class higher education sector would look like in 10 to 15 years' time to support their needs. They will also provide challenges and responses to the recommendations that the original contributors put forward. In addition, the National Student Forum will provide the student angle.

Postgraduate Education: Admissions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of levels of undergraduate student debt on the number of applications for postgraduate courses in each of the last three years. [229838]

Mr. Lammy: We have not made any specific assessment. There is a wide variety of postgraduate courses, and the decision to undertake postgraduate studies is influenced by a range of factors, and not just debt.

Income contingent student loans are not like commercial loans. Student loans only attract an interest rate linked to inflation, so borrowers will repay no more, in real terms, than they borrowed. Borrowers repay at a rate of 9 per cent. of their income over a threshold of £15,000 a year. Repayment is progressive and therefore rises as income does. No payments are due if a borrower is not earning or income falls below the threshold.

The Government's student support is generally targeted at undergraduates, to widen access and provide the opportunity to study for a first degree. Students of the Post Graduate Certificate in Education are, however, eligible for means-tested support.

The Research Councils offer postgraduate awards; and career development loans are also available.

JUSTICE

Courts: Domestic Violence

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases the Alton specialist domestic abuse court has before it; and what plans he has to expand the court's capacity to handle all sentencing. [231624]

Bridget Prentice: Alton and Andover specialist domestic violence courts hear all DV cases listed for trial in the North Hampshire area. There are currently 13 cases listed before the Alton specialist domestic violence court to be heard by December 2008. Those cases then requiring reports before sentencing are transferred to Aldershot or Basingstoke magistrates courts where probation and custody services are available. There are no plans to change these arrangements.

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the total cost of each contract was; [227203]

(2) which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the total cost was of each contract over that period. [231326]

Mr. Wills: Details of organisations providing media monitoring services are outlined in the following table.

Media monitoring services include clippings of newspaper articles on subjects relevant to the Department that are compiled on a daily basis and summaries of broadcast news programmes throughout the day. In common with other Government departments of a similar size, the Ministry of Justice monitors a wide range of media to ensure Government policy is reported accurately and inaccuracies are rebutted.

MoJ

	Durrants	MMU	Total
2005-06	59,606.61	36,000.00	95,606.61
2006-07	20,548.55	34,900.00	55,448.55
2007-08	56,662.93	46,722.70	103,385.63

HMCS

[1]Nil return

[1] Department does not hold own contract with Durrants or MMU, served by MoJ contract.

OPG

	Durrants	Total
2005-06	0.00	0.00
2006-07	0.00	0.00
2007-08	7,118.74	7,118.74

Tribunals

[1] Nil return

[1] Department does not hold own contract with Durrants or MMU, served by MoJ contract.

National Archives

	Adfero Newsmanager (media management/ monitoring)	Adfero Newsmanager (clippings)	Cision (media management)	Cision (clippings and media monitoring)	Meltwater News	Total
2005-06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2006-07	0.00	0.00	23,446.00	220.00	0.00	23,666.00
2007-08	0.00	0.00	11,660.00	13,169.00	5,288.00	24,829.00

Boundary Commission - England

Nil return

Boundary Commission - Wales Office

Nil return

Land Registry

	Durrants	Total
2005-06	19,537.24	19,537.24
2006-07	28,751.35	28,751.35
2007-08	28,035.64	28,035.64

Legal Services Commission

	Adfero Limited	Durrants	Total
2005-06	5,853.87	24,038.20	29,892.07
2006-07	0.00	24,170.03	24,170.03
2007-08	0.00	27,159.00	27,159.00

Judicial Appointments Commission

[2]Nil return

[2] Department does not hold own contract with Durrants, served by Judicial Communications Office contract

Judicial Communications Office

	Durrants	MMU	Total
2005-06	0.00	0.00	0.00
2006-07	25,754.07	9,023.85	34,777.92
2007-08	41,091.57	19,457.30	60,548.87

Departmental Overtime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of overtime payments to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Prison Service and *(c)* other agencies for which he is responsible in each of the last 10 years. [231775]

Mr. Wills: To provide the cost of overtime payments to staff in the Department and its agencies for the last 10 years could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

However, for the latest available information I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 40-42W.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230967]

Mr. Straw: None.

Employment Agencies

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which recruitment agencies *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have used in the last three years; and how much was paid to each of these recruitment agencies in each year. [230945]

Mr. Wills: The civil service recruitment website, which was launched in December 2002, is the site of first choice for central Government recruitment. This site is extensively used by the MOJ. There is no cost associated with this facility.

The MOJ utilises the central framework of recruitment agency services owned by the Cabinet Office. This framework provides access to the most effective recruitment agencies and provides value for money through a single government wide contract. Below the SCS level the Ministry does not hold this information centrally. Therefore, it is not possible to collate this without incurring disproportionate costs.

Recruitment agency services for search and selection are used to fill some externally advertised SCS posts.

The Ministry's costs for these services have been recorded since its creation on 9 May 2007 in the following table.

	£
2007	623,649.46
2008	670,471.57

Note:

2008 data relate to all campaigns invoiced to data

HMP Whitemoor: Homicide

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many attempted murders there were at HMP Whitemoor which did not result in a prisoner being charged by the police in each of the last three years. [230777]

Mr. Hanson: Any assault incident may be referred to the police for investigation and consideration as to whether any criminal charges are appropriate. Where the conclusion of the police and Crown Prosecution Service is that an assault does not justify any criminal proceedings, a disciplinary charge under prison rules for the offence of assault would be considered. There is no separate offence under prison discipline rules of attempted murder. Prisons record information on assaults on the national offender management service incident reporting system, which is held centrally and includes an indication of whether an assault is categorised as a serious assault.

Land Registry: Documents

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he next expects to meet Land Registry officials to discuss its proposed destruction of original documents. [230429]

Mr. Wills: I regularly meet officials from the Land Registry to discuss a range of issues. The next scheduled meeting with the Land Registry is on 24 November, and this issue may be discussed.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many original documents are stored by the Land Registry; and what the total number of pages stored is. [230430]

Mr. Wills: While Land Registry's filing operation is carefully maintained, no data are available that detail the number of documents (or pages) stored. However it is estimated that the figure is in excess of 120 million (with an estimated number of pages of 735 million).

Legal Profession: Finance

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information he holds on the amount of funds held in law firms' client accounts nationally. [230929]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) does not hold any information on the amount of funds held by law firms' client accounts nationally.

Licensed Premises: Proof of Identity

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if his Department will undertake a privacy impact assessment of the use of the ID Clubscan system in nightclubs; [231633]

(2) whether the Information Commissioner has assessed whether the ID Clubscan system used in nightclubs is a breach of data protection principles. [231635]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has policy rather than operational responsibility for data protection and the Data Protection Act. As such, it is not for the Ministry of Justice to undertake a privacy impact assessment (PIA) on the Clubscan system. The system was developed by a private company and it is for that company to decide whether to complete a PIA.

The Information Commissioner in his role as the independent regulator for compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 has inspected installations of working Clubscan systems and has had discussions with manufacturers to ensure that the scanners comply with the law.

Secure Accommodation: Restraint Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish the Government's response to the review of restraint techniques in secure accommodation for children. [231478]

Mr. Hanson: In a written ministerial statement on Wednesday 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 33WS, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Children, Young People and Families and I announced our intention of publishing the report prepared by Peter Smallridge and Andrew Williamson on the use of restraint in juvenile secure settings, together with the Government's response, by 15 December.

Security Industry Act 2001: Prosecutions

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions were brought for offences committed contrary to the Security Industry Act 2001 in each region in each year since the Act came into force; and how many of these prosecutions were successful in each year. [231741]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Private Security Industry Act 2001, in England and Wales, broken down by region from 2004 to 2006 are in the following table. Data for 2007 will be available at the end of November 2008.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Private Security Industry Act 2001, in England and Wales, broken down by region, 2004[1] to 2006[2] [3]

	Proceeded against			Found guilty		
Region	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
North East	—	8	2	—	2	1
North West	1	7	5	1	4	5
Yorkshire and Humberside	—	18	10	—	3	6
East Midlands	—	17	15	—	4	10
West Midlands	—	31	12	—	11	7
East of England	—	6	3	—	3	2
London	2	—	19	1	—	12
South East	7	8	10	7	5	5
South West	—	7	9	—	3	3
Wales	1	66	71	1	31	42
England and Wales	11	168	156	10	66	93

[1] Licensing under the Private Security Industry Act commenced, on a phased basis, in 2004; as a result there are no data from 2001 to 2003.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which private sector companies are participating in Local Education Partnerships to deliver Building Schools for the Future projects. [230222]

Jim Knight: The private sector providers for each of the Local Education Partnerships, including the supply chain is available on the Partnership for Schools website, our Building Schools for the Future delivery partner, and therefore is in the public domain. The web site address is:

www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk.

Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 284W, how many people with children under five years old live in each of the local authorities that are in the *(a)* 10 per cent. most and *(b)* 10 per cent. least deprived local authorities. [231627]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available centrally.

Children: Prisoners

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if his Department will consider giving local safeguarding children boards a role in identifying and supporting the children of imprisoned parents. [229828]

Beverley Hughes: Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) set local priorities for inter-agency safeguarding work and already have a role in ensuring that agencies work together to safeguard all children (including those of prisoners). Over the past two years, LSCBs have established themselves as a crucial part of the children's services landscape. Their role in co-ordinating, and ensuring the effectiveness of, action by partner agencies is vital in the drive to improve safeguarding practice in local areas.

The DCSF is undertaking a stocktake of LSCBs, and I will ensure that this issue is considered as part of this review, to develop recommendations that will help all LSCBs perform at the level of the best. The stocktake will be conducted in close collaboration with local authority and other partners and will report in spring 2009.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issued to local authorities on the adequate protection and care of children whose parent or parents are *(a)* remanded in custody and *(b)* sentenced to a period of imprisonment. [229975]

Beverley Hughes: "Working Together to Safeguard Children" sets out how agencies should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Arrangements made to safeguard children whose parent or parents are remanded in custody or sentenced to a period of imprisonment should be in line with this guidance. Sure Start Children's Centre Practice Guidance provides guidance on offering personalised and appropriate services for the children and families of prisoners.

Families of offenders and prisoners have been identified to local authorities as a priority group in allocating the significantly increased funding (over £120 million in 2008-11) for targeted initiatives to support families with high levels of need. This includes funding for local authorities to employ expert parenting practitioners and increase the number of evidence based parenting programmes for parents of children at risk, including offender families.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many students had *(a)* applied for an education maintenance allowance (EMA), *(b)* been processed for an EMA and *(c)* been issued with a notice of entitlement as at 30 September 2008; [228920]

(2) how many students had been assessed as eligible for the *(a)* £30 education maintenance allowance (EMA), *(b)* the £20 EMA and *(c)* the £10 EMA by (i) 8 September and (ii) 6 October 2008; [228921]

(3) how many and what proportion of applicants eligible for the full education maintenance allowance of *(a)* £30, *(b)* £20 and *(c)* £10 had not received their allowance by (i) 8 September and (ii) 6 October 2008; [228925]

(4) for how many hours Liberata's *(a)* helpline and *(b)* online portal were inaccessible between 4 August and 6 October 2008; [228928]

(5) what assessment he has made of the performance of Liberata in handling the education maintenance allowance application procedure; [228929]

(6) what the average time of processing applications for education maintenance allowance was in the period from 1 May to 6 October 2008; [228930]

(7) how many eligible students from each of the lowest three socio-economic groupings had not received their education maintenance allowance by *(a)* 8 September and *(b)* 6 October 2008; [228932]

(8) what percentage of eligible applicants have received their education maintenance allowance in each further education college; [228933]

(9) how many unprocessed education maintenance allowance applications there were on *(a)* 8 September and *(b)* 6 October 2008; [228934]

(10) what estimate he has made of when *(a)* all education maintenance allowance applications will have been processed and *(b)* all eligible students will have received their allowance; [228935]

(11) what steps he has taken to prevent financial hardship for students yet to receive their education maintenance allowance; and whether these apply across England. [228936]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the decision by Liberata to reduce the number of its employees in Nelson, Lancashire on the administration of the education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement; [231888]

(2) what the value is of the contract with Liberata to administer the education maintenance allowance; [231821]

(3) how many students are waiting for their education maintenance allowance to be processed. [231820]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for

Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and manage the contract with Liberata. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1502-03W, on schools: assessments, what the estimated cost is of supplying the information which was not provided in the answer. [231165]

Jim Knight: It was estimated that the cost of answering the closely related questions would be over £1,500.

Education: Finance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will ensure that the formula for distributing education funding will incorporate a factor for sparsity in respect of *(a)* Early Years and *(b)* secondary education in future years. [231866]

Jim Knight: The review of the Dedicated Schools Grant is wide-ranging and includes specifically looking at the funding for sparsity and for early years. The aim of the review is to develop a funding formula which distributes resources in line with relative need, recognising the different costs of educating particular groups of pupils and providing education in different areas. Our aim is to support schools and LAs in raising the educational achievement of all pupils and narrow achievement gaps, particularly those from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds.

All stakeholders, including schools themselves, have the opportunity to contribute to the review according to their interests. We have established a DSG Formula Review Group with representation from central and local government, teaching associations, unions representing support staff and governors' organisations. Papers and minutes from the group are published on the TeacherNet website at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/dsgformulareview/

It would not be appropriate to give any guarantee about the outcome of the review while it is still in the process of gathering evidence on the main issues. We expect to go out to consultation on proposals for a new funding formula in early 2010 after which proposals will be further developed in the light of the consultation responses.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W, on GCSEs, how the £4,000 figure was calculated; and how many hours of work were required to compile the information requested. [231974]

Jim Knight: As both of this question and PQ 227386 relate to A*-C achievement in GCSE modern languages in each year since 1997 we linked these two PQs.

If the information requested could be produced, it would come from the Achievement and Attainment Tables data. That data is essentially hierarchical—each pupil can sit many exams, each school has many pupils and each local authority has many schools. To deal with that, DCSF manage the data as a series of pre-specified, separate and distinct data files: exam, pupil, school, local authority and national.

That allows the Department to quickly and easily answer questions and produce analyses at a range of different levels and on a range of different measures and indicators. However, those measures and indicators must be pre-specified and the data files are produced under contract for, and delivered to, the Department. A lot of work is put into ensuring the fullest range of relevant measures and indicators are pre-specified and available and updated.

However, it becomes more difficult and expensive to produce analyses where a measure or indicator has not been pre-specified. Essentially, that requires going much further back into the data file production process—agreeing classifications, developing and agreeing production rules and processes, aggregating data (e.g. from examination level to pupil level), matching data across levels (e.g. to identify whether a pupil is in a comprehensive school), extensive quality assurance to check the results and then actual production of the tables and analysis required.

The key point is that, at school and pupil level (for the range of years requested), there are not pre-specified variables relating to Modern Foreign Languages—which would be required to answer these two questions.

The initial estimate of £4,000 was based on the assumption that DCSF would need to ask contractors to create additional variables, aggregations and matches across levels—with associated development and quality assurance.

In some cases, we have the option of carrying out the work ourselves, without involving our contractor in going back to a very early stage in the production process. We have reconsidered on that basis and estimate that would cost £2,200. An explanation of this cost is given as follows:

The main tasks are as outlined earlier—developing and agreeing classifications, production rules and processes, aggregating data across levels, matching data across levels, quality assurance and final production. This is a complex data production and manipulation process.

As PQ 224479 asked for 11 years worth of information, at approximately half a day's work per year, plus a day extra for checking, this would result in a cost of around £1,300 (circa 45 hours).

PQ 224500 does not require an aggregation up to school level so producing the information is slightly simpler but the process would still require implementing the production rules, creating a suitable variable, aggregating up to pupil level and matching to the pupil file. Again, substantial quality assurance checks would be needed.

This process would need to be repeated for each year and would take longer than the disproportionate threshold of at least three and a half days of HEO-equivalent grade's work and at least another day for a different HEO (or higher) to verify it. This amounts to £900 (circa 32 hours).

Grammar Schools: Admissions

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the changes in grammar school admission numbers consequent upon the Building Schools for the Future programme (1) in the Kent local authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Ashford, *(b)* Canterbury, *(c)* Dartford, *(d)* Dover, *(e)* Faversham and mid Kent, *(f)* Folkestone and Hythe, *(g)* Gravesham, *(h)* Maidstone and the Weald, *(i)* Sittingbourne and Sheppey, *(j)* South Thanet, *(k)* Tonbridge and Malling and *(l)* Tunbridge Wells; [231168]

(2) in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Stoke on Trent South, *(b)* The Wrekin and *(c)* Wolverhampton South West; [231169]

(3) in the Wirral Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Wirral South and *(b)* Wirral West; [231170]

(4) in Warwickshire Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Rugby and Kenilworth and *(b)* Stratford upon Avon; [231171]

(5) in the Trafford Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Altrincham and Sale West, *(b)* Stretford and Urmston and *(c)* Wythenshawe and Sale East; [231172]

(6) in Torbay Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Torbay and *(b)* Totnes; [231173]

(7) in the Sutton Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Carshalton and Wallington, *(b)* Epsom and Ewell and *(c)* Sutton and Cheam; [231174]

(8) in the Redbridge Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Chingford and Woodford Green and *(b)* Ilford North; [231175]

(9) in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Bournemouth East, *(b)* East Devon, *(c)* Plymouth, Sutton, *(d)* Mid Dorset and North Poole, *(e)* Reading East and *(f)* Salisbury; [231176]

(10) in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Halifax, *(b)* Penrith and the Border, *(c)* Dewsbury, *(d)* Liverpool, Wavertree and *(e)* Skipton and Ripon; [231177]

(11) in the Medway Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Chatham and Aylesford, *(b)* Gillingham and *(c)* Medway; [231178]

(12) in the Lincolnshire Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Boston and Skegness, *(b)* Gainsborough, *(c)* Grantham and Stamford, *(d)* Louth and Horncastle, *(e)* Sleaford and North Hykeham and *(f)* South Holland and The Deepings; [231179]

(13) in the Lancashire Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Lancaster and Wyre, *(b)* Ribble Valley and *(c)* Rossendale and Darwen; [231180]

(14) in the Kingston upon Thames Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Kingston and Surbiton and *(b)* Richmond Park; [231181]

(15) in the Gloucestershire Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Cheltenham, *(b)* Gloucester and *(c)* Stroud; [231182]

(16) in the Essex Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Colchester and *(b)* West Chelmsford; [231183]

(17) in the Buckinghamshire Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Aylesbury, *(b)* Beaconsfield, *(c)* Buckingham, *(d)* Chesham and Amersham and *(e)* Wycombe; [231184]

(18) in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Edmonton, *(b)* Orpington and *(c)* Slough; [231185]

(19) in the Birmingham Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Edgbaston, *(b)* Ladywood, *(c)* Selly Oak and *(d)* Sutton Coldfield; [231186]

(20) in the Barnet Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Chipping Barnet and *(b)* Finchley and Golders Green; [231187]

(21) in the Walsall Local Authority in the next three years in the constituencies of *(a)* Aldridge-Brownhills and *(b)* Walsall South. [231188]

Jim Knight: Each local authority assesses its pupil capacity just before entering the Building Schools for the Future programme, and puts forward proposals in its Strategy for Change (SfC) submission. The following table provides the figures where available for each of the constituencies requested.

Authority	*Constituency*	*BSF Status*
Barnet	Chipping Barnet	Not yet entered BSF[1]
	Finchley and Golders Green	[1]—
Birmingham	Edgbaston	Birmingham's grammar schools are not part of its current BSF waves and will be addressed in later phases of the programme[2].
	Ladywood	[2]—
	Selly Oak	[2]—
	Sutton Coldfield	[2]—
Bournemouth	Bournemouth East	Bournemouth's grammar schools are not part of the Wave 6 project and will be addressed in later waves of the programme
Bromley	Orpington	Not yet entered BSF
Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury	Not yet entered BSF[3]
	Beaconsfield	[3]—
	Buckingham	[3]—
	Chesham and Amersham	[3]—
	Wycombe	[3]—
Calderdale	Halifax	Not yet entered BSF
Cumbria	Penrith and the Border	Not yet entered BSF
Devon	East Devon	Not yet entered BSF[4]
	Plymouth, Sutton	[4]—
Dorset	Mid Dorset and North Poole	Not yet entered BSF

Authority	*Constituency*	*BSF Status*
Enfield	Edmonton	Enfield is in Wave 6a of BSF, but has not formally started its project so no information is available
Essex	Colchester	Essex's Wave 4 BSF programme is centered on Basildon and Canvey Island, where there are no grammar schools; these will be addressed in later waves[5]
	West Chelmsford	[5]—
Gloucestershire	Cheltenham	Not yet entered BSF[6]
	Gloucester	[6]—
	Stroud	[6]—
Kent	South Thanet	Chatham House Grammar School for Boys is proposed to reduce from 749 to 642 and Clarendon House Grammar school from 790 to 681; the schools are proposed to collocate as part of Kent's Wave 4 project. Dane Court Grammar School will reduce from 1,170 to 1,111 as part of Kent's Wave 3 programme.,
	Sittingbourne and Sheppey	Borden Grammar School is in Kent's Wave 6 programme which has not started yet
	Gravesham	Gravesend Grammar School is proposed to reduce from 1,013 to 956 (11-18) as part of Kent's Wave 4 project. Gravesend Grammar School for Girls is proposed to reduce from 981 to 927 (11-18) as part of Kent's Wave 4 project.
	Faversham and mid-Kent	Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School is in Kent's Wave 6 programme which has not started yet.
	Ashford	The other areas of Kent have not yet entered BSF[7].
	Canterbury	[7]—
	Dartford	[7]—
	Dover	[7]—
	Folkestone and Hythe	[7]—
	Maidstone and the Weald	[7]—
	Tonbridge and Malling	[7]—
	Tunbridge Wells	[7]—
Kingston upon Thames	Kingston and Surbiton	Not yet entered BSF[8]
	Richmond Park	[8]—
Kirklees	Dewsbury	Not yet entered BSF
Lancashire	Lancaster and Wyre	There are no grammar schools in Lancashire's wave 1 project. They will be addressed in later wave of the programme[9].
	Ribble Valley	[9]—
	Rossendale and Darwen	[9]—
Lincolnshire	Boston and Skegness	Not yet entered BSF[10]
	Gainsborough	[10]—
	Grantham and Stamford	[10]—
	Louth and Horncastle	[10]—
	Sleaford and North Hykeham	[10]—
	South Holland and the Deepings	[10]—
Liverpool	Liverpool Wavertree	Liverpool has just submitted its SfC1 for Wave 6 and is proposing to retain the current capacity of 996 (11-18) at The Blue Coat School
Medway	Chatham and Aylesford	Not yet entered BSF[11]
	Gillingham	[11]—
	Medway	[11]—
North Yorkshire	Skipton and Ripon	Not yet entered BSF
Reading	Reading East	Not yet entered BSF
Redbridge	Chingford and Woodford Green	Not yet entered BSF[12]
	Ilford North	[12]—
Slough	Slough	Not yet entered BSF
Stoke on-Trent	Stoke on Trent South	Stoke is revising its BSF plans following its Children's Services being place in intervention; it has not submitted its SfC1 to the Department yet so no information is available
Sutton	Carshalton and Wallington	Not yet entered BSF[13]
	Epsom and Ewell	[13]—
	Sutton and Cheam	[13]—
Torbay	Torbay	Not yet entered BSF[14]
	Totnes	[14]—
Trafford	Altrincham and Sale West	Not yet entered BSF[15]
	Stretford and Urmston	[15]—
	Wythenshawe and Sale East	[15]—
Walsall	Aldridge-Brownhills	Walsall is in Wave 6a of BSF, but has not formally started its project so no information is yet available[16]
	Walsall South	[16]—
Warwickshire	Rugby and Kenilworth	Not yet entered BSF[17]

Authority	*Constituency*	*BSF Status*
	Stratford upon Avon	[17]—
Wiltshire	Salisbury	Not yet entered BSF
Wirral	Wirral South	Not yet entered BSF[18]
	Wirral West	[18]—
Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton South West	Wolverhampton Girls' High is proposed to expand from 747 to 830 places 11-18 in Wolverhampton's Wave 4 project.

Health Education: Sex

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools do not have a sex and relationship education policy; [231576]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools do not provide sex and relationship education in accordance with the personal, social and health education guidelines. [231579]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information. However, all schools are required to have an up-to-date sex and relationship education policy which, among other things, sets out how sex and relationship education will be provided and how it will be monitored and evaluated. Primary school policies should have clear parameters on what children will be taught in the transition year before moving to secondary school; secondary school policies must set out how the relevant National Curriculum Science topics will be taught and how sex and relationship education will be provided as part of personal, social and health education. The Department's "Sex and Relationships Guidance" (2000) for schools outlines their responsibilities in this area.

Higher Education: Admissions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many UCAS points on average those entering BEd courses had in each of the last five years. [230273]

Jim Knight: The average qualification level of first year trainees on undergraduate initial teacher training (ITT) courses, mainly leading to a bachelor of education is shown in the following table.

Average qualification of undergraduate entrants to ITT

Academic year	*Average tariff score*
2002/03	238.7
2003/04	249.1
2004/05	255.1
2005/06	266.5
2006/07	277.2

Notes:
1. UCAS tariff score was used to assess candidates from 2002/03 onwards.
2. UCAS introduced the tariff score to take account of curriculum 2000. It was designed to make different qualifications comparable. It is based on a number of qualifications including A/AS levels. Grade A at A-level scores 120 points; grade B scores 100 points; grade C scores 80 points; grade D scores 60 points and grade E scores 40 points. Tariff scores cover those entrants for whom data are collected. Tariff score data are not collected for some qualifications, including Access courses, OND/ONC, HND/HNC, GCE, A/SCE, Higher, GNVQ/GSVQ, NVQ/SVQ level 3.
3. Includes universities and other higher education institutions, Open universities and SCITTs.

Source:
TDA Performance Profiles

National Academy for Parenting Practitioners: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has provided to the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners in each year since it was established; and how much it plans to provide to the academy in the next three years. [231619]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has set aside up to £30 million for the academy covering the three year period, 2007-10. The Department provided £7.4 million to the academy in 2007-08, and expects to provide around £10 million in 2008-09, and £10 million in 2009-10.

Funding beyond 2009-10 has not yet been determined and will be subject to agreement through the comprehensive spending review.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which officials from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority signed the contract with ETS for the administration and marking of the Key Stage 2 and 3 SAT tests. [230367]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of National Curriculum tests. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests and managed the delivery contract with ETS Europe, on QCA's behalf.

I have been informed that Sir Anthony Greener, the Chairman of QCA, signed the contract with ETS Europe.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what *(a)* evidence and *(b)* references were sought regarding the suitability of ETS as a provider of marking services for key stage 2 and 3 tests; and what account was taken of the experience of the California State Education Board in this matter; [232333]

(2) what information or references were submitted by ETS in tendering for the contract to provide marking services for key stage 2 and 3 tests in relation to its performance in similar projects in the US; and what steps he took to *(a)* verify and *(b)* test such information or references. [232332]

Jim Knight: Delivery of National Curriculum Tests is the responsibility of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). The QCA Board took decisions on the procurement and award of contracts and the hon. member may wish to approach the QCA directly for this information.

Playgrounds

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to improve children's outdoor play areas. [231570]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the Children's Plan we announced new investment of £225 million for play over the CSR period 2008-11, and in April we committed a further £10 million to this agenda. This will fund up to 3,500 public play areas and 30 staffed adventure playgrounds nationally. 30 pathfinder authorities will receive on average £2.1 million of capital and £500,000 of revenue each; and every other authority will receive on average £1 million capital and a small revenue grant.

There are currently 63 local authorities receiving their allocated funding as part of a first wave. These authorities are being supported by Play England, who have been appointed as the external support body to directly assist local authorities in delivering their allocated funding. The timing of funding for all remaining local authorities will be announced by the end of November.

This investment is in recognition of the important part play has enabling children to enjoy a happy, healthy childhood. It will provide new capital funding for every local authority in England, and will provide a real opportunity for Children's Trusts to transform local play areas throughout the country. Underpinning our new investment will be the first national Play Strategy for England. We consulted on the draft strategy 'Fair Play' over the summer, and received a very strong and positive response. We will publish our response to the consultation and final Play Strategy shortly.

Primary Education: Rural Areas

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department's review of the designated schools grant will take into account the contribution that small rural primary schools make to their communities and to the education of disadvantaged and vulnerable children. [230179]

Jim Knight: The review of the dedicated schools grant is wide-ranging and includes specifically looking at the funding for sparsity, deprivation and special educational needs. The aim of the review is to develop a funding formula which distributes resources in line with relative need, recognising the different costs of educating particular groups of pupils and providing education in different areas. Our aim is to support schools and LAs in raising the educational achievement of all pupils and narrow achievement gaps, particularly those from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds. It will therefore take into account the contribution of small rural primary schools, alongside other schools, in achieving those aims.

All stakeholders, including schools themselves, have the opportunity to contribute to the review according to their interests. We have established a DSG Formula Review Group with representation from central and local government, teaching associations, unions representing support staff and governors' organisations. Papers and minutes from the group are published on the TeacherNet website at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/dsgformulareview/.

Pupils: Intimidation

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on bullying behaviour on school buses; what steps he is taking to monitor trends in levels of such behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [231568]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Responses to the Staying Safe consultation, which closed on 31 October 2007, included concerns about safety on bus journeys to and from school. In the Staying Safe Action Plan (February 2008), the Government committed to launching new guidance and training on tackling bullying which takes place outside of schools. Following a competitive tendering process, we have appointed the charity 4Children to develop guidance and training tools and materials on tackling bullying outside of schools. These will be published early in 2009. The guidance and materials will specifically include advice to help practitioners tackle bullying during journeys to and from school and on public transport.

Ofsted's Tellus 3 survey, published in October 2008, includes for the first time a question on the frequency of bullying both inside and outside school, including journeys to and from school. Although the survey does not include a measure specifically relating to buses, it does include a question on how safe children feel on public transport and journeys to and from school. Responses to these questions provide a valuable source of information on the scale of bullying outside school.

My Department promotes local good practice to monitor and tackle bullying, such as having school prefects act as bullying monitors on school buses. It also encourages local initiatives to tackle bad behaviour on buses, such as the Purbeck Bus Forum which operates in the hon. Member's constituency. To improve monitoring at a local level, my Department is also proposing to introduce a statutory requirement for all schools to record, although not report, incidents of verbal or physical abuse which are linked to bullying. We intend to consult key stakeholders on this over the coming months and will legislate at the earliest possible opportunity in 2009. We will continue also to recommend that schools supply these recorded data to their local authority, so that trends across the authority can be identified and area-wide initiatives evaluated.

Schools: Inspections

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will issue guidance to Ofsted on reducing the number of inspections carried out at schools which it consistently rates highly. [230761]

Jim Knight: Ofsted has consulted on, and is currently developing, proposals for a more differentiated school inspection system under which the frequency of inspection for good and outstanding schools will reduce. This is consistent with the Government's principles of public service inspections and Ofsted's statutory functions, both of which require inspection to be proportionate to risk. Subject to the passage of legislation, the new school inspection arrangements will be introduced in autumn 2009.

Schools: Land

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons *(a)* academies and *(b)* foundation schools are granted ownership of the land and buildings they occupy; and if he will make a statement. [230139]

Jim Knight: The Government consider that schools are more likely to achieve high standards when they take responsibility for their own future. Control of land and buildings, together with the other freedoms that self-governance brings, is part of this. The land is held in trust for the school by the governing body or the trust. There are protections relating to the disposal of any publicly provided land.

The majority of academies occupy their land and buildings through a lease from the local authority (LA). There are in some cases arrangements where academies are built on land owned by a third party (other than the LA) but the land and buildings are leased to the academy trust.

Those academies that were built early in the programme were typically given the freehold of their land by the LA as part of the overall package of transfer of responsibility and control. Since 2006 lease arrangements have been favoured.

Foundation Schools are self-governing and ownership of the land contributes to their autonomy, enabling governing bodies to take decisions about the whole of their school, independent of the local authority.

Shared Residence Orders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many shared residence orders were issued in each of the last five years. [229627]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not held centrally by the Department.

Specialised Diplomas: Rural Areas

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what additional funds will be available to help rural schools provide intra-institutional transport for students undertaking a diploma course in a joint educational setting. [230055]

Jim Knight: In local authorities where Diploma delivery has started, those areas receive a range of additional funding to support Diploma delivery costs, which includes a consortia support grant, access to a range of training support, and the Diploma Specific Grant. The Diploma Specific Grant is calculated using a number of factors, one of which is 'sparsity', so this means that an extra £120 per learner is made available to rural areas in addition to the other support they receive.

In addition, we are also making available £23 million over the next two years to the 40 most rural areas in the country, to help drive local solutions and innovation and support the delivery of Diplomas in these areas. This includes funding for the post of a Travel and Access Co-ordinator in each of the 40 most rural areas.

Teachers: Manpower

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* full-and *(b)* part-time (i) primary and (ii) secondary school teachers who entered local authority maintained sector service in England in the year after qualification in March (i) 2004 and (ii) 2005 was still in such service three years later, broken down by subject of initial teacher training. [231882]

Jim Knight: The information requested is only partially available and is currently being collated. I will write to the hon. Member with the information and place a copy of my reply in the Library.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers there were per 100 pupils in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [231923]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of teachers employed per 100 pupils in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency, Hertfordshire local authority and England, in January of each year, 1997 to 2008.

Teachers per 100 pupils in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools[1], January 1997 to 2008, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire and England

	Primary			Secondary		
	Hemel Hempstead	Hertfordshire	England	Hemel Hempstead	Hertfordshire	England
1997	4.3	4.4	4.3	6.0	6.3	6.0
1998	4.3	4.3	4.2	6.2	6.2	5.9
1999	4.3	4.3	4.2	6.2	6.1	5.9
2000	4.2	4.3	4.3	6.0	6.0	5.8
2001	4.3	4.4	4.4	6.1	6.0	5.8
2002	4.4	4.4	4.4	6,0	5.9	5.9
2003	4.5	4.3	4.4	5.8	5.9	5.9
2004	4.4	4.4	4.4	5.8	5.8	5.9
2005	4.6	4.4	4.4	5.9	5.9	6.0
2006	4.6	4.5	4.5	5.9	6.0	6.0

Teachers per 100 pupils in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools[1]*, January 1997 to 2008, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire and England*

	Primary			*Secondary*		
	Hemel Hempstead	*Hertfordshire*	*England*	*Hemel Hempstead*	*Hertfordshire*	*England*
2007	4.3	4.3	4.6	5.9	6.1	6.1
2008	4.5	4.4	4.6	6.0	6.1	6.2

[1] Excludes academies. *Source:* School Census.

Teachers: Qualifications

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many newly qualified teachers who had a grade *(a)* A or A*, *(b)* B and *(c)* C GCSE in (i) English and (ii) mathematics took up a post in each of the last five years. [230990]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of those *(a)* going into teacher training and *(b)* gaining qualified teacher status in the last year for which data are available had a first degree from a Russell Group university (i) excluding and (ii) including BEd degrees. [231883]

Jim Knight: Information on the institution from which trainee teachers gained their first degree is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teacher trainees did not pass their teacher training in each of the last 10 years, broken down by graduate route into teacher training. [230275]

Jim Knight: Information about failure to complete initial teacher training (ITT) courses is only available for trainees in their final year of training. The following tables show the number of final year ITT trainees for each academic year between 1998/99 and 2006/07 who did not gain qualified teacher status (QTS) in their final year of training and, of these, the number who left their course before completion and the number where the outcome of QTS is unknown for:

1. Postgraduate ITT trainees;
2. Undergraduate ITT trainees; and
3. Employment-based routes (EBR) trainees.

Information relating to the number of trainees through mainstream courses gaining QTS is only available from 1998/99 onwards. The same information for trainees on employment-based routes was only collected from 2001/02 onwards.

1. Postgraduate ITT trainees

			Number of postgraduate final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	*Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*
1998/99	17,430	15,160	1,260	130	880	2,270
1999/2000	17,170	14,850	1,250	140	940	2,320
2000/01	18,680	16,150	1,310	250	970	2,530
2001/02	19,480	16,940	1,090	0	1,450	2,540
2002/03	21,590	19,180	1,020	[1]—	1,400	2,410
2003/04	24,590	21,460	1,430	0	1,700	3,130
2004/05	25,200	21,780	1,390	20	2,010	3,420
2005/06	25,100	21,600	1,290	10	2,210	3,500
2006/07	24,660	21,080	1,210	[1]—	2,370	3,580

[1] Less than 5.

Notes:

1. Includes trainees from universities and other higher education institutions, school centred initial teacher training and Open universities but exclude employment-based routes (EBR).
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not sum.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test were not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skills test has not been taken (including those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).

Source:

TDA Performance Profiles.

2. Undergraduate ITT trainees

			Number of postgraduate final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	*Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*
1998/99	9,770	8,910	50	340	470	860
1999/2000	7,490	6,850	40	210	390	640
2000/01	7,040	6,490	40	240	270	550
2001/02	6,870	6,340	40	0	490	530
2002/03	6,980	6,250	40	[1]—	690	730
2003/04	6,380	5,880	50	0	460	500
2004/05	6,160	5,360	20	0	770	790

2. Undergraduate ITT trainees

	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS	Number of postgraduate final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
			Known not to have completed course	Undefined outcome	Other outcome	Total
2005/06	6,120	5,410	20	10	680	710
2006/07	6,690	5,900	40	0	750	790

[1] Less than 5.

Notes:

1. Includes trainees from universities and other higher education institutions, school and Open universities but exclude employment-based routes (EBR).
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not sum.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test were not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skills test has not been taken (including those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).

Source:

TDA Performance Profiles.

3. Employment-based routes (EBR) trainees

	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS	Number of EBR final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
			Known not to have completed course	Undefined outcome	Other outcome	Total
2001/02	2,440	2,210	30	0	190	230
2002/03	4,030	3,670	340	0	20	360
2003/04	4,950	4,470	440	0	30	470
2004/05	7,220	6,600	260	0	350	610
2005/06	6,970	6,090	420	0	450	870
2006/07	7,840	7,120	350	0	380	720

Notes:

1. Includes trainees through employment-based routes (EBR) only.
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not sum.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test were not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skills test has not been taken (including those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).

Source:

TDA Performance Profiles.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Fossil Fuels

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what estimate he has made of potential coal, gas and oil reserves in Afghanistan; [230846]

(2) what plans there are for the construction of small-scale coal or gas-fired power stations in Afghanistan fuelled by that country's own resources. [230847]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There are significant, unexploited deposits of coal, gas and oil in Afghanistan and the sector therefore represents an opportunity for both economic growth and rural development. Due to their experience in this sector the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and United States are the main supporters of mining and power generation projects. The Department for International Development's (DFID) development support in Afghanistan focuses upon support to state-building, economic management and sustainable livelihoods. We currently have no plans to fund the construction of power stations in Afghanistan.

Between 2004 and 2008 DFID did, however, commit £4.2 million to support the work of the Afghanistan Geological Survey (AGS). The AGS sits within the Ministry of Mines (MoM) and is responsible for assessing Afghanistan's natural resources as well as providing assistance and advice to the MoM.

Africa: Education

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 94-96W, on Africa: education, with which multilateral organisations the Government is working in each country referred to; how much funding his Department has allocated to each such organisation in each year it has been funded; how much and what proportion of such funding has been allocated to *(a)* country systems and *(b)* third parties; what objectives and key performance indicators have been set for the educational fast track initiative; which are the 18 countries expected to benefit from the scheme; what support his Department has provided to (i) teachers census in Sierra Leone, (ii) capacity technical assistance for joint educational sector support in Rwanda, (iii) the Association of African Universities initiative and (iv) the Revitalising Education Association for Development of Education in Africa: Books Work Group; what steps his Department has undertaken to determine the quality of education provision in each of the sub-Saharan countries; and how many new schools for primary children have been funded by each country referred to in the answer as a result of his Department's intervention. [230250]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As stated in the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 94-96W, the Department for International Development (DFID) provides core funding to a number of multilateral organisations that work to develop education in Africa. This core funding is not sector or country-specific but is our contribution to the organisations' overall programme budgets. The organisations manage their own development programmes and DFID is not directly involved. It is not therefore possible to attribute our funding to specific projects or programmes. However, to provide a further indication of the destination of UK Government aid, DFID uses the overall proportions of Official Development Assistance reported by the relevant agencies to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to impute a UK contribution.

The principal organisations concerned, the UK Government core contributions to them and the imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance for education in Africa for 2006-07 are as follows:

£ million

Multilateral organisation	*UK core contributions 2006-07*	*Imputed UK share of multilateral ODA for education on Africa*
International Development Association (World Bank)	493	27.0
African Development Fund	147	12.9
European Commission	1,123	9.4
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	19	0.6

Note:
It is not possible to disaggregate how our contributions to these organisations have been allocated in terms of the delivery methodology.

The Education for All—Fast Track Initiative (FTI), was established in 2002. The FTI is a partnership consisting of all the major donors in education, over 30 developing countries and five major civil society organisations. It seeks to accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals of universal primary education and gender parity in education by 2015 through providing further aid and building local capacity. FTI works by forming a compact between development partners based on the principle of one country, one plan, one process. National government with donor partners prepare an education sector development plan linked to the broader poverty reduction strategy and the budget. This is evaluated against the FTI indicative framework and endorsed if found to be compliant. FTI endorsement of national plans provides an assurance to donors that those plans are credible and bankable thereby encouraging bilateral and multilateral investment. The indicative framework also provides the basis for ongoing national progress monitoring.

FTI partners expect the FTI to contribute to increasing access to good quality education for all, particularly girls and address the particular challenges of education in fragile states. The FTI process follows best practice on harmonisation and alignment in line with the Monterrey Consensus and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness resulting in increased impact and reduced transaction costs. Further details on FTI are available on the FTI website at

http://www.education-fast-track.org/

There are now 19 African countries that have benefited from funding from within the FTI Umbrella. Eighteen of these (Benin, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Sierra Leone) have received support as a result of a fully endorsed plan through the Catalytic Fund. Liberia has received support from the UNICEF administered transition fund established to meet the needs of fragile states that are not in a position to prepare the detailed plans demanded for Catalytic Fund support. The Central African Republic is currently in the advance stages of securing Transition Fund support.

As set out in the answer of 6 October 2008, we are providing support to the Teacher Census in Sierra Leone, to the Capacity Building Technical Assistance for the Joint Education Sector Support Project in Rwanda, to the Association of African Universities Revitalising Education Initiative and to the Association for Development of Education in Africa Books Working Group.

Further details of this support are as follows:

Project title	*Budget (£000)*	*Duration*	*Project purpose*
Sierra Leone: Support to Teacher Census	750	20 March 2008 to 30 April 2008	To support the Ministry of Education to undertake schools survey in Sierra Leone to enhance an effective education management information system (EMIS)
Rwanda: Capacity Building Technical Assistance for Joint Education Sector Support	300	22 July 2005 to 31 December 2010	An increasingly effective, efficient and inclusive education system provides accessible, good quality education relevant to Rwanda's social, economic and cultural development needs
Association of African Universities: Revitalising Education	3,500	12 December 2006 to 1 June 2010	To support a capacity building programme to promote and enhance the networking role of the Association of African Universities (AAU) in relation to leading regional and national African associations in higher education
Association for Development of Education in Africa: Books Working Group	220	1 July 2004 to 1 February 2008	Capacity building and networking between Government Ministries, NGOs, funding agencies and the private sector to promote effective book sector planning and management in Africa

Improving the quality of education in Africa continues to be a concern in all countries where DFID supports education. It has long been a key consideration in the design of our interventions in the education sector. Some of the main areas where qualitative improvements are targeted include enhancing the quality of teachers, reducing class sizes, improving both the content and the availability of textbooks, providing more supplementary reading material and improving the monitoring of learning achievement through diagnostic testing and primary school examinations. These and other factors that contribute to improved education services in Africa should be priority areas in the support that we are providing to education and we will continue to ensure that they remain so.

In addition, DFID is funding an education research consortium on Education Quality (£2.5 million, 2005-10), led by Bristol University. This is investigating different aspects of education quality (eg school effectiveness, language and literacy issues) in partnership with the Universities of Bath, Witwatersrand, Cape Coast and Dar es Salaam and the Kigali Institute of Education.

The nature of our involvement in the education sector varies from country to country. In some, our support is through general or sectoral budget support, whereas in others it is through technical assistance or through third parties such as UNICEF or NGOs. We cannot therefore generally attribute construction of schools directly to DFID's funding. However, some examples of what is being achieved are:

In Tanzania, we provide General Budget Support of which 18 per cent. is allocated to the education sector, with half of that going to primary education. In 2007-08, the Tanzanian Government built a total of 1,263 classrooms, 277 teacher's houses and 939 pit latrines for primary schools.

In Kenya, we contribute more than a third of the US$325 million of donor funding supporting the Education Sector Support Programme, the Kenyan Government's five-year sector plan for 2005 to 2010. It covers 23 investment areas, of which primary school infrastructure is one. These funds have enabled the following to be achieved to date:

4 new primary schools completed and a further 16 are 80 per cent. complete.

4,000 primary schools have received infrastructure improvement grants which have enabled the following

1,882 new classrooms built, 3,868 classrooms refurbished and 32,406 new desks supplied

4,200 new latrines built.

1.7 million children have benefited from the infrastructure programme so far and a further 500 schools will receive infrastructure grants within the next two months.

In Malawi, it is possible to attribute the construction of 602 primary classrooms and 157 teachers' houses to DFID funding in 2007-08. A further 654 primary classrooms and 291 houses are planned for this year. Some 4,000 classrooms have been constructed since 2001.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what IT projects his Department is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the completion date of each is. [229166]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently undertaking the following IT projects:

The ARIES Finance, Reporting and Procurement system provides a centralised enterprise resource planning system for all DFID users. The current total contract value is £17.6 million and the project is due to complete in September 2009.

The Web Transformation project aims to bring DFID's website into line with new Government guidelines and updated content management processes. The most recent cost estimate is £2.5 million and the project is anticipated to finish in July 2009.

The Knowledge and Information Management Programme has a current cost estimate of £6.8 million and is due to complete in March 2011.

The Information Technology Infrastructure Programme (ITIP) aims to improve DFID's global IT infrastructure. The current cost estimate is £5.0 million with the programme due to complete in March 2011.

DFID has also a number of smaller IT projects. Provision of details for these projects would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many press and communications officers are employed by his Department. [231336]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 663W. There are currently seven press officers employed at the Department for International Development (DFID).

Communication is integral to the work of the Department, and many staff in different teams in our two United Kingdom headquarters and network of overseas offices are involved in communication work. It is not, therefore, possible to identify all such staff without incurring disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what requirements his Department makes regarding user fees when funding national primary education plans in developing countries. [231886]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) expect the countries to which we provide direct support to have plans in place to remove tuition fees. To be successful, and to protect standards, the removal of fees needs to be part of a comprehensive, long-term plan for universal primary enrolment. Support from DFID, in the form of long-term predictable funding, is helping governments achieve this aim but other donors also need to provide long-term flexible funding to ensure the removal of primary tuition fees.

Many of the countries that DFID prioritises for support have already removed tuition fees or are working towards their removal. The high cost of education is the biggest deterrent to poor families educating their children, particularly for girls. In addition to tuition fees, other direct costs include uniforms and textbooks, teachers' and Parent Teacher Association fees, transportation as well as 'hidden' costs such as lost household and/or paid labour. Such costs have a significant impact on whether and which children are educated.

Developing Countries: Teachers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on the International Monetary Fund's placing of caps on teacher recruitment in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [231884]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Civil Society Organisations have regularly raised this issue and I agree it is important that wage ceilings do not restrict the ability of governments to hire teachers. The Department for International Development welcomes the recent changes agreed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to significantly reduce the use of wage ceilings. If any ceilings are agreed with the government as part of an IMF programme, they will need explicit justification and the need for them will be subject to regular reassessment. The IMF's new approach makes clear that ceilings should allow for full spending of higher aid flows and take measures to safeguard priority sectors, such as education.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [221929]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 90-91W.

Environment Protection: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 112W, on environment protection: overseas aid, who the signatories are to each voluntary partnership agreement; and in which countries the agreements will support improved forestry governance. [230249]

Mr. Thomas: The first Voluntary Partnership Agreement, between the European Union and Ghana, was signed by Mr. Stefano Manservisi, Director General for Development of the European Commission and the hon. Esther Obeng Dappah, Minister for lands, Forestry and Mines of Ghana. This Agreement has now entered the process of ratification by Ghana's Parliament and adoption and ratification by the European Council of Ministers representing the interests of all European Union member states. All subsequent Voluntary Partnership Agreements will be signed by representatives of the European Commission and the government of the country concerned. All Voluntary Partnership Agreements will support improved forest governance.

Global Cluster Appeal

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations shared the £2 million given by his Department via the Global Cluster Appeal; and what the arrangements were for distributing that funding. [224132]

Mr. Michael Foster: In 2007-08, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £2 million to the UN's Global Cluster Appeal to agencies involved in the Protection, Camp Co-ordination/Camp Management (CC/CM), Emergency Shelter, and Logistics clusters.

The breakdown of funding given to each organisation is as follows:

Cluster	*Organisation*	*Allocation (£)*
Protection	OCHA	500,000
CC/CM	UNHCR	500,000
Emergency Shelter	UNHCR	500,000
Logistics	WFP	500,000

The funds were disbursed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with each of the organisations.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 119-20W, on Pakistan: overseas aid, what progress the Pakistani financial inclusion programme has made on the raising of £50 million from the private financial sector to improve access to finance including in rural areas. [230246]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The financial inclusion programme is a five year programme which has only just commenced. Resources from the private financial sector to improve access to credit have not yet started to flow. We expect that by June 2009 around £10 million will have been mobilised from the private sector, and the full £50 million will be available by the end of 2011.

Pakistan: Taxation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will offer Pakistan advice and assistance to enable it to widen its tax base and minimise the scope for evasion; and if he will make development assistance from the UK conditional on Pakistani government action to increase the proportion of those liable for taxes who pay them. [230405]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development highlights the importance of Pakistan raising its current low level of tax revenue in our discussions about our development partnership arrangement, focusing on the need to increase taxes to finance public services for the poor.

DFID has committed £12.4 million to a tax administration reform programme. This is strengthening the capacity of the Federal Board of Revenue to enforce and collect taxes. In addition, we have provided £400,000 for a study which is assessing Pakistan's tax policies and will make specific recommendations about improving existing taxes and introducing new ones.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229102]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No civil servants from the Department for International Development (DFID) were seconded to work for *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress since 2003.

UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the £0.5 million allocated to the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs to improve accountability between the humanitarian co-ordinators based in a country receiving aid and emergency relief co-ordinators will be spent on. [224130]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £0.5 million over three years (2006-08) to the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to help strengthen the humanitarian co-ordination system at field level.

This contribution will assist in the establishment of a dedicated secretariat within OCHA focusing on the selection, induction, training of and support to humanitarian co-ordinators and field based humanitarian co-ordination structures.

Zimbabwe: Asylum

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the governments of states bordering Zimbabwe on the effect of food shortages in that country on the number of refugees entering their countries. [229844]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Zimbabwe's social and economic decline has forced many Zimbabweans to leave the country. The vast majority of these migrants leave by irregular means, making it difficult to estimate numbers accurately. During the recent campaign of violence following the March elections, a significant increase in requests for asylum and refugee status in neighbouring countries, especially Botswana, was noted. The exodus of Zimbabweans as a result of oppression and humanitarian pressures is a regular topic of conversation in our dealings with neighbouring states.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) office in Zimbabwe maintains regular contact with DFID offices in neighbouring states to monitor preparedness and policies in those countries related to irregular migration and refugees. Support to Zimbabwean migrants and refugees is currently being provided by DFID in Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the World Food Programme and other international agencies delivering humanitarian aid to Zimbabwe on ensuring that currency paid into the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe is *(a)* not siphoned off in any currency transactions and *(b)* used for the purpose for which it was donated. [229822]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) works closely with international agencies to ensure they achieve the best value for money when delivering humanitarian programmes in Zimbabwe and minimise the risks of pilfering and interference. The World Food Programme (WFP), its partner organisations and other international agencies operate bank accounts outside Zimbabwe and liquidate negligible amounts through local commercial banks. Most procurement of commodities and services is done externally through offshore accounts.

The United Nation's Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) maintains a robust system of monitoring for humanitarian funds and the implementation of agreed programmes. The UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator (HC) holds weekly monitoring meetings in order to track the delivery of assistance and use of humanitarian funds.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what checks he has in place on UK aid monies paid into the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to protect against siphoning off in currency transactions. [229825]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No UK Government funds are transferred to the Government of Zimbabwe and no payments are made through the Reserve Bank. The Department for International Development (DFID) holds all aid funds in offshore accounts and we encourage our partners to do the same to prevent pilfering by the Reserve Bank. We aim to deliver DFID programmes using as little Zimbabwe currency as possible. Increasingly, as the economy declines, the use of foreign currency in Zimbabwe has become easier. Most of our procurement is done in foreign currency in accordance with EC rules and outside Zimbabwe. Goods are imported with tax and customs exemptions.

Where funds have to be expended in local currency, money is transferred to local commercial banks for exchange at the best available rate and in small amounts at a time in order to preserve value. DFID holds regular discussions with NGOs and other implementing partners to ensure that they are able to operate without interference.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members' Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members will have received payments from the Parliamentary Pension Scheme this year by the end of the year. [231141]

Chris Bryant: There are currently 847 pensioners in receipt of a pension from the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund. Data on the likely number of pensioners during the remainder of 2008 are not available.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 20 October 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of the changes made in response to the Local Government Efficiency Review led by Sir Peter Gershon on efficiency and practice in local government. [221755]

[Official Report, 6 October 2008, Vol. 480, c. 344-45W.]

Letter of correction from John Healey to Mr. Oaten:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten) on 6 October 2008. The full answer referred to the £3.447 billion cashable efficiency gains achieved by councils represent a saving worth £129 for the average Band D council tax property.

The correct answer should have been:

The £3.447 billion cashable efficiency gains achieved by councils represent a saving worth £193 for the average Band D council tax property.